106 Metro colleges, universities to raise tuition

STORY ON PAGE A2

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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GMA picks banker as energy secretary

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO AND ARMAND N. NOCUM

FINALLY, a new energy secretary.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday announced that Jose Isidro "Lito" Camacho, an investment banker, had accepted his appointment as energy secretary.

GMA PICKS/ A6

PNP chief goes after 7 pro-Ping generals

BY DAVE M. VERIDIANO, TJ BURGONIO AND NINI VALERA

WHEN opposition senatorial candidate Panfilo "Ping" Lacson left town, he was the talk of it.

First, at least seven star-rank officers of the Philippine National Police and other senior officials will be summoned and investigated for allegedly campaigning for the former PNP chief, according to police authorities.

Second, Lacson, a Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino candidate with Joseph Estrada's Puwersa ng Masa coalition, caused a stir at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday when he was allegedly allowed entry into a restricted passenger terminal wearing an airport pass that was no longer valid.

The retired police general got in because he was escorted by a member of the Aviation Security Group.

PNP/ A18

'Aawitan Kita' (Tita Midz) vs 'Assignment' (Teddyboy)

BY GERALD LACUARTA

JFK. Long Hair. Aawitan Kita. Rescue 911. Banzai. 5. El Shaddai. Edza, etc.

These are just some of the nicknames of the congressional candidates in Metro Manila. All 125 of them wrote down their nicknames or their initials in their certificates of candidacies by which they hope to be readily identified by the voters.

"Aawitan Kita" is, of course, synonymous to former censors chief Armida Siguion Reyna, who wrote down the title of her long-

AAWITAN/ A7

ANG IBOBOTO KO SI SHAWIE
AKO SI ATE VI!
AKO SI BRENDA

GMA: Gov't to keep out of business deals

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday assured the country's top businessmen that her administration would keep its hands off corporate deals and disputes to ensure transparency and attract more investments.

In a speech at the Second Annual Philippine Business Outlook 2001 Conference in Makati City, Ms Macapagal also said the government would no longer tap state pension funds to finance takeovers.

She said this policy would differentiate her administration from that of her graft-tainted predecessor, ousted President Joseph Estrada.

"No more of presidential interventions or brokering in corporate disputes and corporate takeovers," Ms Macapagal, a trained economist, told the forum sponsored by the influential Makati Business Club.

"Corporate battles are for corporations to do, especially if there are no government shares involved."

She said the government would not use state pension funds "to drive values or to make an investment choice preferable to another investment choice."

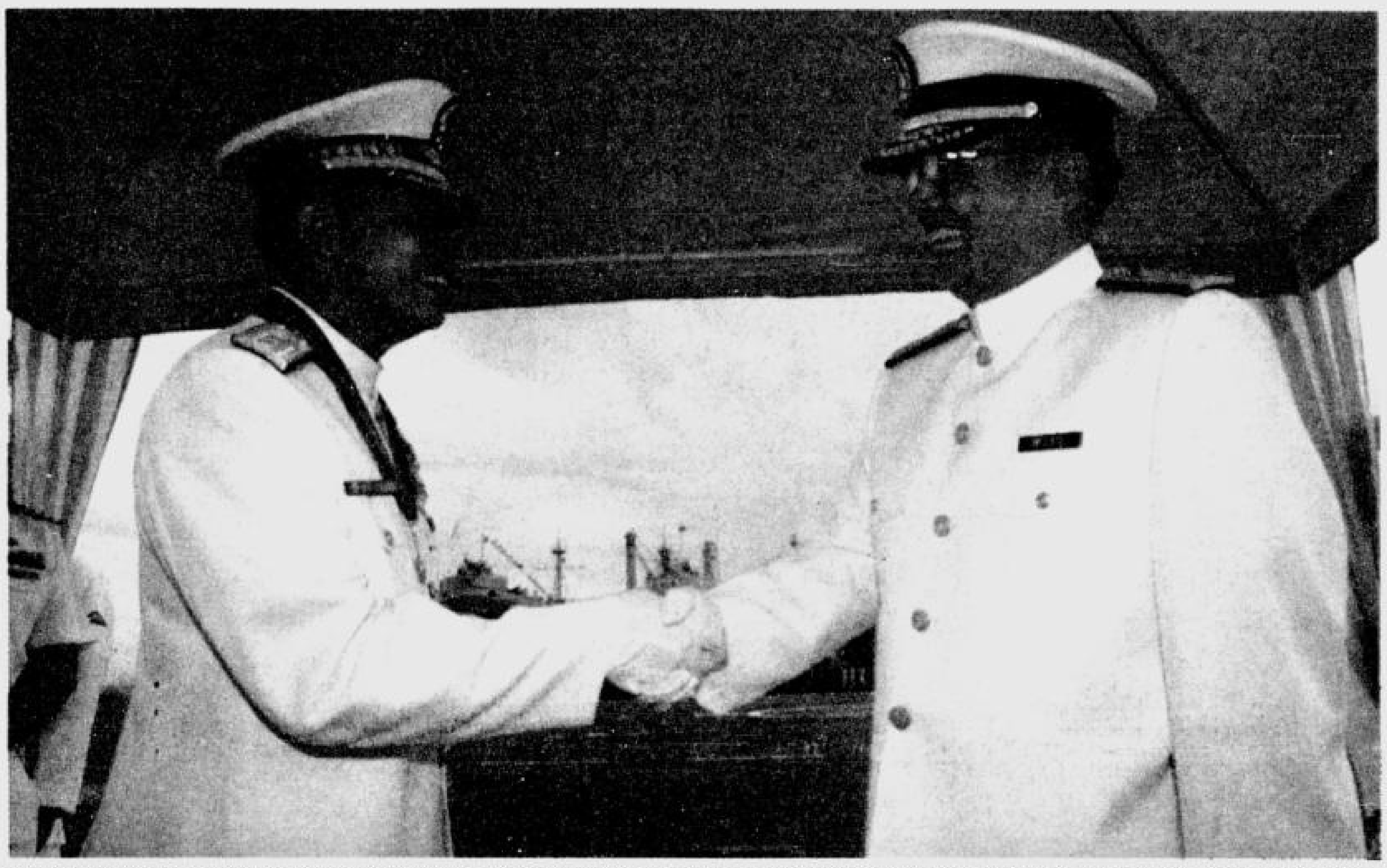
Decisions should "be driven by the market and not by the intervention of powers-that-be in the corridors of power," Ms Macapagal said in allusion to accusations that Estrada cronies enjoyed special privileges when he was President.

Shortly after assuming the presidency last month, Ms Macapagal recalled that a businessman-friend called her up and said he was wrapping up a major deal.

She said she congratulated him, and later told him over dinner: "Aren't you glad all I said was congratulations and good luck?"

"In the previous administration, the President would have offered to broker that deal. But not in this administration," she said amid applause from an overflowing crowd.

GMA/ A18



THE ADMIRABLE Rear Adm. Guillermo Wong turns over the Navy command to Rear Adm. Victorino Hingco in Sangley Point, Cavite, on Thursday. Wong is boarding a slow boat to his retirement in December.

ERIK ARAZAS

PARTING SHOT

Wong revives case of missing ₱65M

BY CARLITO PABLO

THE NAVY'S Office of Ethical Standards for Public Accountability is working on the reopening of a case in the Marine Corps involving P64.9 million in missing funds.

The effort to revive the case appears to be the parting shot of Navy chief Rear Adm. Guillermo Wong, who yesterday formally relinquished the post of flag officer in command to Rear Adm. Victorino Hingco.

The money, totaling P64,982,600, was to have been used for the "relocation and replication" of the Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio to the Marine training base in Ternate, Cavite, according to military documents.

The project involved putting up new headquarters including access roads between 1995 and 1996, during the term of then Marine commandant Maj. Gen Guillermo Ruiz.

Documents show that as of June 1997, only P266.56 was left of the funds but no new headquarters or passable roads had been constructed.

The case was raised in the closed-door dialogue between Wong and Marine officers held on Feb. 15, immediately after his controversial speech that triggered his ouster.

A transcript of the dialogue shows that the issue was discussed under the heading of "realization of funds for road networks, water and drainage system, electrification, and timber pier for Marine Base Ternate."

Without actually naming Ruiz, Wong commented: "I am again reminded of another shabby Marine officer. *Binigyan na ng pondo para panggawa ng kalsada. Nasaan ang kalsada* (He was given funds to

WONG/ A18

Been there (Europe), done that (eat beef)? Don't donate blood

BY NORMAN BORDADORA

IF HE had eaten beef in his recent trips to Europe, former President Fidel V. Ramos will have to forego his yearly practice of donating blood on his birthday.

The Department of Health announced yesterday that Filipinos, who visited Europe and ate its steaks and other beef products, were most at risk of being infected with the dreaded mad cow disease or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

The health department is advising all Filipinos, who had been to Europe during the outbreak of the mad cow disease, to refrain from donating blood to minimize the possibility of spreading the disease in the Philippines.

Although the possibility of transferring mad cow disease from one person to another is quite remote, it's better to be safe than sorry, according to Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit.

Dr. Ernesto Villalon, a DOH expert on mad cow disease, told reporters that since imported livestock from affected European countries had been banned from entering the country, the Filipinos most at risk of contracting the disease were those who had been to Europe.

Ramos was in Europe last January to attend the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. The special envoy of the Macapagal administration is celebrating his birthday on March 18. He had been to Europe several times during his administration that ended in 1998.

The mad cow disease crisis erupted in several western European countries late last year. At least 80 human deaths traced to the eating of BSE-infected beef have been reported in Europe. The disease was first discovered in 1986 in the United Kingdom after several cows became "mad."

Last November, the Department

BEEN/ A18

DEFYING SIN

'The God of Edsa was also the God of Mendiola'

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

DID Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin weaken the cause of People Power II when he ordered the people assembled at Edsa not to march to Mendiola on Jan. 20? Or was he just being the prudent pastor worried about the safety of his flock?

Fr. Raul "Puti" Enriquez of the activist Church group Gomburza told the INQUIRER that the leaders of the various groups gathered at the Edsa Shrine were thrown into confusion when the cardinal ordered that the planned march on Malacañang be called off.

Sin had expressed concern about "unnecessary violence" should the march proceed.

But Enriquez said police and military leaders had actually assured the protesters that the march would be safe.

He said that at a time when victory was at hand, Sin's order divided the broad coalition that wanted then President Joseph Estrada out of office as soon as possible.

"If we did not march and Estrada was allowed to stay for five more days, he would not have been removed from office," Enriquez said, adding:

"Even now when he is out of power, we can't have him arrested."

THE GOD/ A6

THE MARCH to Mendiola: Disputed between Church and the militants.

EDWIN BACASMAS

To march or not to march: Only in the Philippines

BY GEN. LISANDRO ABADIA (RET.)

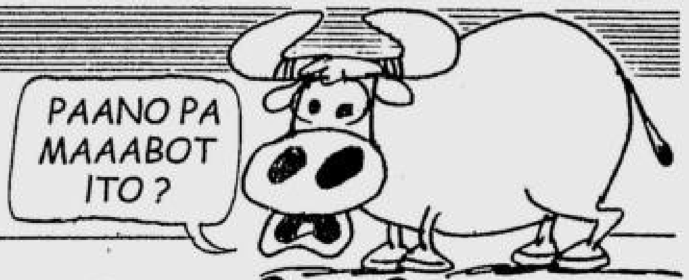
Editor's note: The following is a first-person account of retired general and former Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lisandro Abadia of the decision of a faction of the former political opposition to march to Malacañang on Jan. 20 to force then President Joseph Estrada from office. President Macapagal named Abadia her national security adviser on Jan. 24. Bowing to pressure from sectors that protested the appointment, Abadia returned his appointment to the President six days after it was announced.

FOR THEIR final marching orders, the organizers and leaders of the Jan. 20 march to Malacañang met the night before in Room 802 of a building that I will not name here for reasons of security.

It was surreal. I felt like I was Chief of Staff again, but this time, conferring with and giving instructions to a rainbow army. The Left

TO MARCH/ A7

Second FRONT PAGE


PAANO PA MAAABOT ITO?

106 colleges to raise tuition

By Blanche S. Rivera

AT LEAST 106 colleges and universities in Metro Manila are poised to raise their tuition this school year as consultations for fee hikes ended this week and students took to the streets to protest the "inaccessibility" of education.

Ester Garcia, chair of the Commission on Higher Education, said the 106 schools submitted their notice of consultations to the CHEd two weeks before the deadline for conducting dialogue with students expired last Feb. 28.

The average increase sought by the schools is 13 percent over the current tuition, similar to that implemented last year by 426 schools nationwide. The final list of those who will impose fee hikes would be known by the end of the month.

Meanwhile, the College Editors Guild of the Philippines staged a rally at the Mendiola bridge in Manila yesterday to protest the new round of tuition increases implemented by the private schools for the past 19 years.

"What happens with students is that even if you explain the situation, somehow it does not sink in," Garcia said. "What they see is the 100 percent increase and not so much what the increase means relative to the total cost of education."

Among those set to increase their fees are AMA Computer College, Assumption College, Ateneo de Manila University, Centro Escolar University, De La Salle University, Far Eastern University, College of the Holy Spirit, Fatima Medical Science Foundation, Adamson University, Jose Rizal College, Miriam College, Manuel L. Quezon University and Philippine School of Business Administration.

Garcia said some schools that had raised their tuition before by 100 percent to 300 percent got only minimal additional revenues, contrary to the perception that they had been raking in money from the fee increases.

She called attention to the Abra State Institute of Science and Technology, which increased tuition by 300 percent, from P10 to P40 per unit. Another example was the Aurora State College of Technology, which upped tuition from P5 to P15 per unit.

Garcia even noted that the fee hikes had been decreasing every year, from 16.33 percent in 1997 to 16 percent in 1999 and 13.11 percent last year.

The CHEd requires school administrations to conduct dialogues with representatives from the students, faculty, alumni and non-teaching personnel before raising fees. The consultations are done usually in February.

Negotiations in more than 20 schools reached a deadlock in the consultations. Among them are Gregorio Araneta University Foundation, Philippine Christian University, Philippine Maritime Institute, Arellano University and the University of Santo Tomas.

"The problem is not that the students are not consulted," Garcia said. "The problem is what happens after the consultations. The CHEd's problem, to be frank about it, is the task of monitoring after the consultations."

She said the CHEd tried to set up regional teams to check whether school administrations had been faithful to the results of the consultations, but it was very difficult to convene the teams and discuss their mandate.

The schools are supposed to spend 70 percent of the revenues from tuition to increase teachers' pay, 20 percent to improve facilities. The remaining 10 percent could be kept as return on investment.

Charred bodies not of Dacer, driver—NBI

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE TWO charred bodies found in Dasmariñas, Cavite, Wednesday were not that of missing public relations man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, according to the National Bureau of Investigation.

NBI probers, however, failed to identify the remains that were in a burning Toyota Revo.

The investigation is headed by Nelson Bartolome, NBI Region 4 chief.

Dacer and his driver, Manuel Corbito, were abducted from the PR man's white Revo around noon of Nov. 24, 2000 on the busy South Superhighway in Makati.

They have not been seen or heard from since.

Bodies had turned up in pairs throughout the Philippines but apparently none were Dacer's or Corbito's.

The latest bodies to be found definitely could not be Dacer or his driver, a ranking NBI official who asked not to be named, said.

"Their features did not in any way resemble the two missing men. We have yet to establish the identities of the burned bodies," the official said.

Dacer's daughter, Ampy Dacer-Henson, said the bodies could not be her father's or his driver's since a Rolex watch was found with the remains.

Dacer, who has a Rolex, was not wearing it when he was abducted, Henson said, adding her father's Rolex is with the family.

Residents of Sitio Bueno, Barangay Paliparan, Dasmariñas were awakened at around 4 a.m. Wednesday by the burning Revo. Inside the vehicle, with Plate Number WHK 379, they saw two men in handcuffs.

By the time authorities reached the scene, however, the men had been burned beyond recognition.

Recovered from the vehicle were a partly burned government license plate and the handcuffs, which bore serial numbers that had been issued to a police officer, according to NBI agents.

The Rolex and golf clubs were found near the bodies.

The remains have been taken to the NBI medico-legal division for autopsy.

Last Monday, NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco filed criminal charges against seven members of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force and three others for refusing to cooperate with the NBI probe of the Dacer case.

The seven, who were invited to the NBI for questioning, did not show up, prompting Wycoco to file charges of obstruction of justice in relation to the PAOCTF raid of a house near Dacer's home in Sun Valley Subdivision, Parañaque City.

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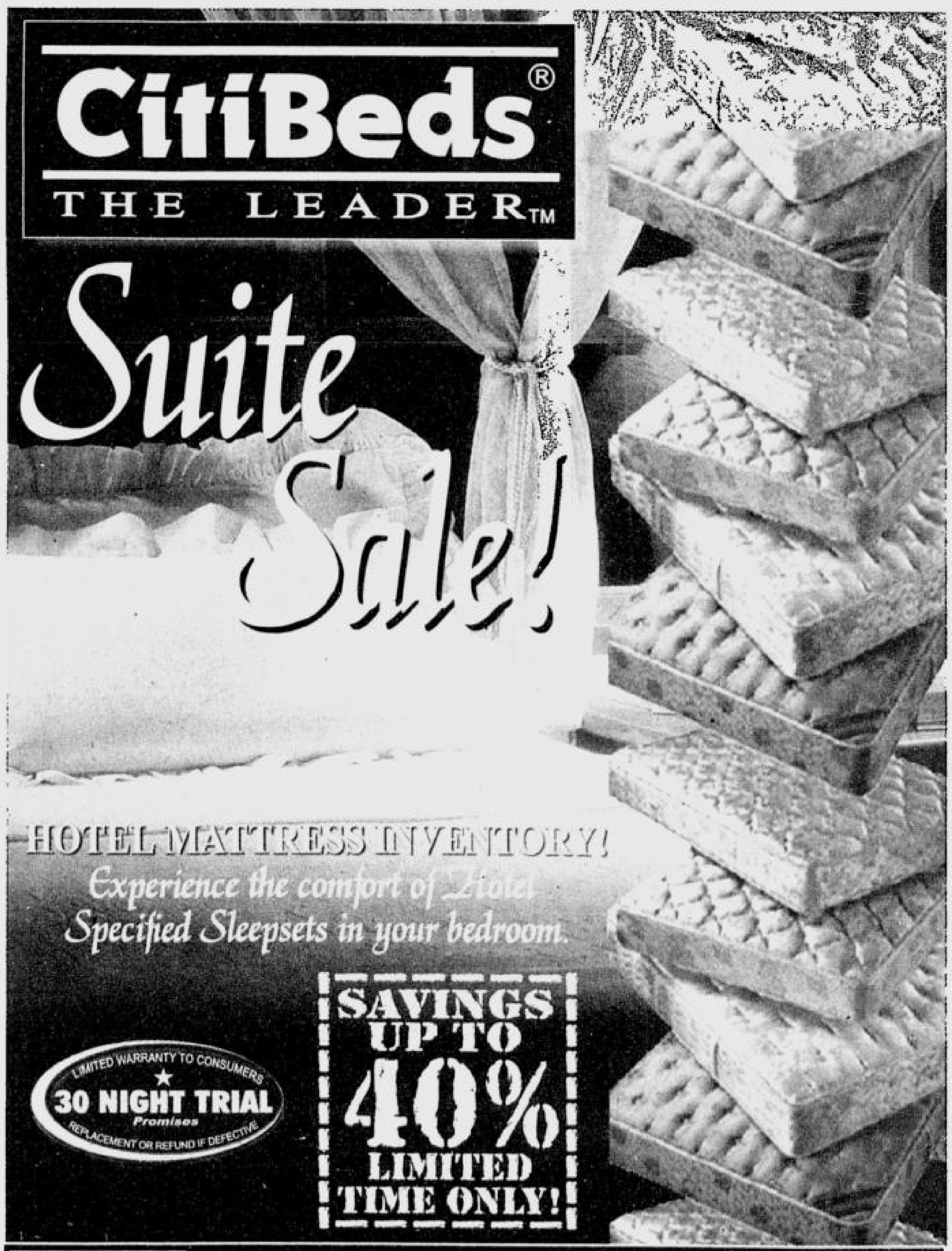
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Namfrel goes to SC

BY MICHAEL UBAC

THE NATIONAL Movement for Free Elections yesterday asked the Supreme Court to make Comelec commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco inhibit herself from the deliberations on the poll body's accreditation for the coming elections.

Claiming Tancangco had shown partiality and prejudice toward it, Namfrel filed a 47-page petition for certiorari and prohibition with urgent prayer for issuance of a temporary restraining order with the high court yesterday.

In the petition, Namfrel lawyer Jose Bernas sought to annul Tancangco's decision not to inhibit herself from the proceedings involving the poll body.

"All told, petitioner does not wish to deny respondent her right to disseminate her ideas or the results of her research endeavor; likewise, petitioner does not dispute the respondent's desires to contribute to the conduct of clean, honest and orderly elections in the country," Bernas said.

However, he continued, "Having previously published and announced conclusions on Namfrel's competence and integrity to conduct a quick count, she cannot be expected to act in an impartial and unbiased manner. Her refusal to inhibit betrays her intention to ensure that her prejudgments prevail in Namfrel's petition for accreditation."

For this reason, Bernas said, Tancangco must be restrained from further participating in the accreditation proceedings for both Namfrel and the National Press Club, which has also applied for accreditation to conduct its own quick count in May.

On Jan. 29, Namfrel filed before the Comelec an Urgent Motion to Inhibit to pressure Tancangco to inhibit herself from the hearings.

On Feb. 8 and 28, Namfrel filed a Supplement to Motion to Inhibit with Motion to Restrain and a Motion to Disqualify, respectively.

Despite the motions, Tancangco did not inhibit herself, according to Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo. A Comelec order dated Feb. 20 told Tancangco to file a written response to the motions to inhibit and disqualify.

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PPC moves to straighten its act

By Juliet L. Javellana

SEN. Renato Cayetano yesterday urged the heads of the six political parties that make up the People Power Coalition to get their act together and straighten the disarray in their combined campaign.

Cayetano, Lakas-NUCD party regional chair for Metro Manila, thus confirmed there was confusion in the PPC campaign, which is being run by Paul Aquino and Dodi Limcaoco.

As Metro Manila chair, Cayetano said, he himself was often unaware of PPC rallies on his own turf and he did not even know a PPC headquarters was being set up in the Ortigas Center.

"There is really a little disarray in the handling of the campaign of the PPC," Cayetano said at the blessing of his office at the Senate.

Executive Secretary Renato de Villa yesterday also admitted the PPC has been having problems coordinating its campaign sorties.

But, he said, this was being resolved and he is still confident the coalition will win all 13 Senate seats in the May 14 elections.

"There have been some problems with the schedules and coordination with the advance parties. All of these will have to be perfected," he said.

PPC insiders earlier told the INQUIRER a "power struggle" between Lakas and "The Group" of Aquino and Limcaoco resulted in the disorganized campaign.

The Aquino-Limcaoco group has reportedly taken charge of the campaign sorties, logistics and the media.

Cayetano cited instances when he learned of PPC rallies only from TV news.

"In Metro Manila, being the (Lakas) VP and chair, I'm supposed to know what is going on. But, and I understand it's also true with Senator Legarda, rallies are being held without our knowledge," Cayetano said.

He cited the rally at the Sta. Ana racetrack in Makati City Tuesday night where President Macapagal-Arroyo made an appearance.

Cayetano said he saw the rally on TV so he called up Dean Barbers, Makati City councilor and Lakas chair for the city.

"He also did not know about the rally," Cayetano said.

Cayetano said Rep. Joker Arroyo, Makati congressman and PPC senatorial candidate, did not even show up at the rally which he should have hosted.

One time, Cayetano said, Guingona called him up to ask why he was not at the PPC rally in Caloocan City.

"Why, is there a rally?" Cayetano asked him. He said he rushed to the site only to find it deserted because it was raining.

Cayetano said the biggest debacle occurred during the PPC's first provincial sortie to San Pedro, Laguna.

He said the arrangement was for the first six PPC candidates who had finished speaking in San Pedro to proceed to Muntinlupa City for a second rally at 6 p.m.

The first three candidates arrived in Muntinlupa at 10 p.m., he said, when the people had either left or were too sleepy to listen. *With Armand N. Nocum*

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Whistling tribe battles to reclaim ancestral land

By Jason Gutierrez

WITH A HAUNTING whistle, a centuries-old tribe based on the edge of the Philippines' last frontier is on a warpath to reclaim its ancestral land.

Spearheading the novel effort is Kanakan Balintagos, native prince of the Palaw'an tribe who has brought his people's fight to Manila's theater stage.

He and several other tribal elders have caught public attention with a "whistle song" depicting their banishment in a violent land-grab by cronies of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Kanakan is the tribal name adopted by 31-year-old television documentarist Auraeus Solito, who until nine years ago was not aware of his rich Palaw'an roots in the tropical islands of Pandanan and Bugsok, at the tip of the Palawan peninsula.

Solito claims to have "magically" stumbled on his ancestry when he was sent to Palawan to finish a thesis on tribal communities and heard the tale of a second generation Palaw'an princess sent on a scholarship to Manila in the 1950s.

Rounding up what remained of the Palaw'an's elders, Solito was re-christened Kanakan—the blowgun hunter—who according to tribal myth will lead them back to their ancestral land.

The Palaw'ans dominated several minority groups in Pandanan and Bugsok, where—by their own count—their ancestors first emerged about 500 years ago.

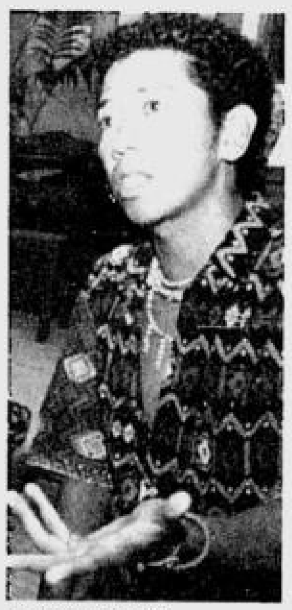
The islands, covering 21,000 hectares, are rich in tropical fruit trees and abundant in wild root crops and lie in the fertile waters bordering the Malaysian state of Borneo.

Everything was paradise until Marcos declared martial law in 1972 and enriched himself and his cronies in a brutal regime that was to last for 20 years, the tribal leaders say.

In 1974, they claim, representatives of Marcos crony Eduardo Cojuangco forced the tribesmen to sell their land at gunpoint.

They were allegedly paid a measly P400 for their transportation out of the islands and P50 for each tropical fruit tree, said Solito.

"Nearly 500 families were sent away. We are now scattered in the mainland. They took away the busong-busong," he said, referring to a traditional fishing ground in the area.


BALINTAGOS

"They cried, hugged the trees, but what can they do?" he asked.

Documents he obtained said Cojuangco acquired the islands to transform them into experimental seed plantations for the "golden coconut," a high-yielding variety acquired from the Ivory Coast.

The project soon collapsed, but the Cojuangcos transformed the surrounding waters into pearl farms guarded by armed private security guards and soldiers, he said.

Tribesmen who stray into marked buoys are harassed and threatened.

"There have been shootings in the past, they had guns," tribal leader Upod Tiahangin said.

"We pray to our ancestors to help us get back our land, we are going hungry, we cannot fish," he said.

Tiahangin recently joined Solito and five other elders to push their claim in Manila through a tribal musical recital at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

For three days last week, they constructed a 3.7-meter bamboo stage called Panggao, from where they performed a native dance ritual called Basal and several songs of claim called Kulilal.

The song tells a tale of how the Palaw'ans are now "engulfed in deep sorrow" because of man-made menaces that restrain them from fishing but who soon will have deliverance.

A deeply-haunting whistling-in-the-mangroves tune caps the performance.

The performance may have been little noticed because its run coincided with the arrival of a multimillion-dollar production of "Miss Saigon," but it has certainly attracted enough attention from its intended audience. AFP

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Red Cross needs ₱292M

THE PHILIPPINE National Red Cross yesterday said it needed to raise P292 million to effectively deliver its services across the country this year.

Getting no subsidy from the government, the PNRC said the sum, which would have to be derived from voluntary public support, was required to implement its plans of action for 2001

Justice Leonor Ines Luciano, PNRC chair, said she was therefore appealing to corporate and individual donors for generous contributions. She added that as usual, the contribution would be tax deductible.

Luciano said that while the PNRC 2001 fund drive was yet to be launched on March 15, the humanitarian agency welcomed advanced donations "to energize the Red Cross early in playing its role consistently."

Luciano said the PNRC planned to build the capability of people, especially those in remote rural areas, to help for the good of their communities along such urgent concerns as disaster preparedness, primary health care, voluntary blood-giving to save more lives and in taking to heart humanitarian values imparted by the Red Cross.

The 2001 PNRC Fund Drive will be launched on March 15 at Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan. Masters of Ceremonies during the program are Miriam Quiambao and Arnold Clavio, hosts of "Unang Hirit" program on GMA-7.

FVR: Lee arrogant, devoid of civility

By TJ Burgonio

FORMER President Fidel Ramos yesterday assailed Singapore senior minister Lee Kuan Yew for suggesting that the Filipinos' lack of education is the main reason that democracy does not work in the country.

"I consider his recent remarks—and I guess this is typical of him—as arrogant, devoid of civility and out of step with Asean spirit and policy of his own government, led by Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong," he told reporters at the airport.

Ramos, who could not hide his anger over Lee's remarks, added, "If he still speaks as senior minister of the Singaporean government and not as a private person, he better watch his language."

Ramos arrived yesterday from China, where he attended the Boao Forum for Asia.

In a story filed by the Associated Press early this week, Lee said that democratic process did not work in the Philippines because the people were not educated. He said that there had been an overemphasis on democratic process in the aftermath of the Cold War, but this did not work in all societies.

"Otherwise you get a situation like in the Philippines," Lee said of the danger of placing too much emphasis on democracy over developing an educated society.

The Department of Foreign Affairs had subsequently considered filing a diplomatic protest against Lee for his insulting remarks.

"We will verify if he really made those offensive, off-tangent claims. Then we will file a note verbale," Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin said.

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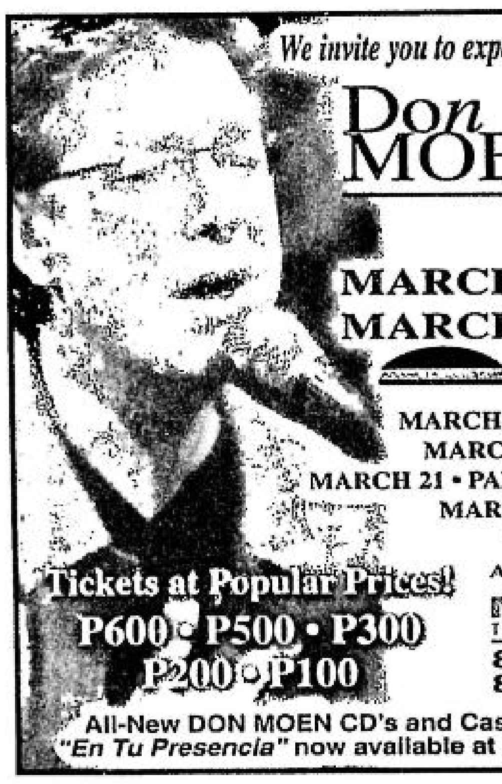

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GMA picks banker as energy secretary

(From page A1)

Camacho said he accepted the post despite objections from members of his family, who are worried that he is leaving a high-paying job as country manager for Deutsche Bank AG in the Philippines.

"With a lot of sadness," was how Camacho described his wife's reaction when told that he had accepted the post.

"She said she was very proud of me, but at the same time she expressed sadness that we're embarking on a new life, something that we're not accustomed to," he said. His salary as energy secretary is a fraction of what he gets from Deutsche Bank.

Told that he was among the few people who had been "actively pursued" by the Macapagal administration, he said he was "flattered by this opportunity to serve."

But he admitted that he was initially reluctant to accept the post.

"I have six children. I know a job like this requires a lot of personal sacrifice, not only financial, but more . . . (like) the time that I will have to spend on the job to look after the problems of the industry," he said.

Malacañang said making financial sacrifices should be the mark of members of the Macapagal Cabinet. None of them will be allowed to take multiple government posts, unlike in the previous administration.

Ms Macapagal originally wanted to appoint Camacho as president of the Development Bank of the Philippines.

Her first choice for the top DOE post was Jesus N. Alcordo. He was later named president of the National Power Corp. following concerns of conflict of interest. Alcordo was head of the Cebu-based energy firm East Asia Power Corp. of the Aboitiz family.

Camacho, also the erstwhile managing director of Deutsch Bank in the country, handled its investment banking transactions for Asia, excluding Japan and South Korea.

He held the position in the German bank since April last year.

He joined it in New York after receiving his master's degree in business administration from the Harvard Business School.

The De La Salle University mathematics graduate was also a partner, managing director and head of investment banking in South Asia for Bankers Trust Co. before it merged with Deutsche Bank. He had been assigned in Singapore, Japan and Hong Kong.

In that capacity, Camacho enabled the Bankers Trust Co. to serve as financial advisor to a subsidiary of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., C&P Homes, the Aboitiz Group and Metro Pacific.

He said his work primarily involved "corporate restructuring, mergers and acquisitions and financing."

He held the position in the German bank since April last year.

Because of this experience, Ms Macapagal picked him for the top post in the Department of Energy, according to Camacho.

He said the privatization of the National Power Corp. (Napocor) should the Omnibus Power Bill be passed would require a lot of money.

"This is probably the reason why I think I'm qualified to take this role," he said.

Ms Macapagal said legislators would pass the power reform bill in June. Both the Senate and the House adjourned on Feb. 8 for the May congressional elections and are due to reconvene on June 3.

"The privatization of Napocor requires a major financial restructuring. As you may know, it has very significant financial obligations that need to be restructured," he added.

Camacho said his experience as investment banker would make him credible before the international business community.

He said he could also help in creating investments in the energy sector after its deregulation.

The God of Edsa . . .

(From page A1)

Enriquez also said that after People Power II, the Catholic Church's fixation with Edsa clouded equally important protest actions in other parts of the country, especially Mendiola.

300,000

Around 300,000 people eventually marched to Mendiola despite the Church's insistence that people remain at the shrine because it was "holy ground."

Enriquez noted that Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn had confirmed that "the loud shouts of the crowd near the gates of Malacañang forced Estrada to hastily leave the Palace."

"Why is it that what happened on Mendiola is not getting enough credit? Could have Erap gathered a larger crowd of supporters if he was allowed to stay until Wednesday (Jan. 24)?" Enriquez said.

Some of the groups at Edsa wanted the march held on Thursday or Friday. But other organizations as well as the Church said that this was "premature" and that not enough consultations had been done on the matter.

Things came to a head on the night of Jan. 19. The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan led by Nathanael Santiago said the march should proceed as soon as possible.

Enriquez said Bayan was determined to go to Mendiola even if the other groups chose to stay at the shrine.

To resolve the problem, Santiago and other leaders—Danny Javier, Ging Quintos-Deles, Percy Chavez, Nicky Perlas and now Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman—held an emergency meeting at the Poveda Learning Center at around 9 p.m.

The spirited discussion ended in a compromise: The march would begin at 6 the next morning after a Mass by "running priest" Robert Reyes.

Those remaining at Edsa would serve as the "prayer brigade," Enriquez said.

The organizers were also convinced that the timing was right because protest caravans from Bicol and Southern Luzon would have arrived by then, he said.

After the meeting, the emcees worked the crowd at the shrine with an hourly countdown until morning, while the leaders completed preparations and took a much-needed rest.

2 a.m.

At around 2 a.m., 20 minutes into his sleep, the ringing of his cell phone awakened Reyes. Msgr. Clem Ignacio, chancellor of the Manila archdiocese, was at the other end of the line.

"There was a big problem," Enriquez said. "Cardinal Sin was angry and was asking why the march to Mendiola would proceed. The cardinal did not want Edsa to be abandoned."

Enriquez said Reyes was also warned that there might be snipers near Malacañang.

Later in a separate interview, Reyes said that apart from the safety concern, the Church wanted "to protect the integrity of the political, spiritual and moral seat that had formed at Edsa since People Power II began."

"So again, we had to rise and hold another emergency meeting," Enriquez said.

The meeting was to be held at the Galleria Suites, but the venue was later changed to the Gabriel Building, also in Ortigas, Pasig.

By the time the group leaders arrived at the meeting site, retired Gen. Lisandro Abadia, then Metro Manila police chief Edgar Aglipay and Western Police District head Avelino Razon were already there.

They briefed the leaders on the situation at Mendiola, Enriquez said.

He added: "They had also been planning about the march and they told us Mendiola was secure, with only 120 pro-Erap protesters remaining there."

But despite this assurance, leaders of moderate groups, particularly of the Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino (Kompil) II, were still in a quandary because of Sin's order.

"It was a very insensitive order. The Church's triumphalism was again rearing its ugly head. Had some of our church leaders really lost consideration, humility and sensitivity to others?" Enriquez said.

"I was ashamed to face our counterparts in civil society and other basic sectors because they were scandalized by what happened. It was as if we (the religious) were the ones losing faith," he said.

In a bind

Enriquez said it was Reyes who was in a real bind because Sin had ordered him to talk to the media and to tell the protesters to stay.

"It was easy for me as a Churchman to understand the cardinal's concern. But how could I tell the members of Bayan, the KMU (Kilusang Mayo Uno), and their militant allies that the cardinal did not want them to leave?" Reyes told the INQUIRER.

He said the members of the Kompil II steering committee crowded into a small room and engaged in a "very heated" argument on what to do.

"It was not an easy debate. Dinky was crying because of our predicament," Reyes said.

Worse, Msgr. Soc Villegas, rector of the Edsa Shrine, told the crowd to remain there without consulting Kompil II leaders.

"Many were confused, frustrated and angry. It looked like the organizers were not united," Enriquez said.

The Kompil II steering committee eventually agreed that the decision to join the march should be left to each person.

"I told them that everyone should follow his or her conscience or conviction. I reasoned that the danger of violence was present even at Edsa, but that it was better to make a sacrifice and immediately get rid of Erap than (waste time) thinking about the dangers," Enriquez said.

"I told them the Armed Forces and the police had defected, and besides, God was with us," he said, adding that the other leaders responded with shouts of "Alleluia" and "Amen."

4 a.m.

At around 4 a.m. the leaders held a press conference to announce the decision.

Villegas angrily approached them afterward and chided them for what they had done.

But there was no turning back the crowd that embarked on the 15-kilometer march at around 6:30 a.m., leaving only a few hundred people at the shrine.

"Most of those who remained were Church people who also wanted to go to Mendiola but were constrained by their obedience to Church elders," Reyes said.

Enriquez said Reyes also wanted to march for 100 meters but was prevailed upon not to because he might be seen on camera.

"If the number of people who joined the march was an indication of obedience to the cardinal, then the cardinal was not followed. History will judge if the marchers were wrong. But I think it is very clear that the sacrifice they made was correct," Reyes said.

The march proceeded despite Villegas' announcement that Chief Justice Hilario Davide would swear in then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as President at the shrine that noon.

The crowd at Edsa would only thicken again after Villegas and other Church leaders repeated the announcement on radio and appealed to the people to go to the shrine.

One journey

Both Enriquez and Reyes emphasized that Edsa and Mendiola were components of "one and the same journey."

The problem is that the march to Mendiola is not being given sufficient credit for Estrada's fall, Enriquez said.

"It is a journey toward national renewal, purification, catharsis and spiritual direction. The God of Edsa was also the God of Mendiola," he said.

Enriquez said the people watched and joined the march as if it were a papal visit.

"Despite their frustration and lack of sleep, the marchers were shouting, smiling, clapping and singing. The people along the route gave us sandwiches, mineral water, candies and other forms of support," he said.

He recalled that when Ms Macapagal was sworn in, the people at Mendiola, except for some politicians who returned to Edsa, stood their ground until Estrada left Malacañang.

"Mendiola showed the people's firm resolve to find the truth and get justice, and they let no one dictate on their conscience. Mendiola was Erap's last rites. It should also be commemorated," Enriquez said.

He suggested that the Church should not act as if it had a copyright to Edsa.

"Our Church had a big part at Edsa, but that was only expected of us as good pastors. We're lucky God gave us a second chance because it was our shortcomings that led to a repeat of People Power," he said.

Enriquez also said the Church had fallen short of the exhortation at its Second Plenary Council—that it should be a Church of the poor.

"This is why the masses were fooled by Erap," he said. "Even Fr. Sonny Ramirez, Bishop (Teodoro) Bacani, Mike Velarde, Fr. Larry Paraon and Bro. Andrew Gonzales were also for Estrada."

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To march or not to march: Only in the Philippines

(From page A1)

and the Right seemed to be marching in perfect cadence.

Who were in that room? Apart from myself, the agreed overall planner and commander, there were Metro Manila police chief Edgardo Aglipay, Western Police District chief Avelino Razon Jr., Teddy Casiño of Bayan, Nathanael Santiago of Bayan Muna, Dinky Soliman, retired Vice Adm. Armando Madamba, Fr. Robert Reyes and their assistants.

The idea had been broached earlier: to add to the pressure on Estrada by bringing people power to the gates of Malacañang.

To march or not to march was the subject of a heated discussion on the eve of the fateful day that Joseph Estrada finally left the Palace with his family.

Then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo herself presided over a preliminary meeting on the night of Jan. 19. With her was a motley group of senators, congressmen, Kompil leaders, and other volunteers.

The group was divided between those willing to take a new tack and go for the jugular by marching to Malacañang, and those who insisted on remaining on Edsa, concerned over possible deaths and injuries in a confrontation between anti- and pro-Estrada forces.

I argued forcefully for marching.

I contended that while the anti-Estrada forces were swelling on the highway, it was possible that in the coming days fatigue and disillusionment would set in.

I was concerned that Estrada's impeachment spokesperson Ernesto Maceda's theory would be proven right—that the government's decision to exercise maximum tolerance was the most effective weapon against the People Power demonstrations.

At that point, leaders of the Armed Forces were not even agitated, content to hold back the back-up reserves and ready to support the Philippine National Police frontline forces.

Worse, Estrada and his cohorts seemed to be unaffected, perhaps watching the Edsa rally on TV and even thinking, "Look at these fools, jumping up and down, tiring themselves out, and for what?"

Risks and benefits

Before these disparate groups, united only in their desire to topple an immoral regime, I dispassionately reasoned that we should march to Malacañang.

First, because there was that distinct possibility that the Edsa forces might suffer from too much fatigue and wither on the vine. Secondly, the Armed Forces appeared unaffected and were therefore "not part of the scenario." They were perceived to be bystanders who were not to be engaged.

And finally, I stated that we had to bring the message formally to the doorstep of Malacañang in a threatening gesture of sorts.

I admitted certain risks, but believed that they were far outweighed by the benefits and the likelihood of success.

After hearing the pros and cons, Ms Macapagal decided in favor of the march. She directed, however, that Jaime Cardinal Sin should be consulted in order to find out whether his forces would be committed or not.

Mapping it out

I was tasked by (now Executive Secretary) Renato de Villa to complete the plan and supervise its execution.

And so our smaller group of officers and activists met later in Room 802 to map out our plan.

In planning for an operation, it is important to take inventory of your forces, and to assess the strength of the forces arrayed against you.

There are things that are not quite clear to you, and so you have to make assumptions. And one must anticipate the enemy's intentions using intelligence information. All of these data and assumptions are analyzed until one finally forms a course of action. I've been retired for nearly seven years but the military planning habit has not left me.

Consult Sin, but . . .

Before finalizing the plan, there was one item to settle: the guidance of Cardinal Sin. I requested Father Reyes to call the Archbishop of Manila. Cardinal Sin had already retired for the night, and I had to talk to Msgr. Soc Villegas, his spokesperson, regarding the participation of Church groups in the march to Malacañang.

It turned out that Sin had already decided that they would not join the march to Mendiola, and that was it on his end.

Ms Macapagal had told us to consult the cardinal, but she had not said that we needed his permission.

Marching orders

When I asked Nathanael and Teddy for the strength of their forces, they gave figures from a low of 50,000 to a high of 100,000. Then I asked Generals Aglipay and Razon for the number of police troops they would commit to the area. They assured me of 1,200, with reserves on standby. When I asked about the whereabouts of the pro-Estrada forces, they answered that they would be at Mendiola.

With the map in front of me, I gave the instructions. One, to Teddy and Nathanael: Divide your forces into two, one group on Avelino and one on Solano. Two, to General Aglipay: Position 400 of your men on Solano, 400 on Avelino, and 400 at Mendiola Bridge. Three: The pro-Estrada forces should be left alone at Mendiola. And four: The two sides should not be allowed near each other.

Only in RP

The route of the march was agreed upon by Nathanael, Teddy, Aglipay and Razon.

The march to Malacañang on that fateful Saturday morning pushed the envelope. It precipitated a series of actions and counter-actions by the contending forces.

There were ongoing negotiations between the pro-Erap and anti-Erap camps, but the march to Malacañang sent the message. Something had to give.

Filipinos are never wanting in innovation and imagination, and Aglipay had suggested that the leftist marchers of Nathanael, Teddy and other activist Kompil forces should be provided with motorcycle and car escorts by their traditional foe, the police force.

I thought to myself then, as I can honestly say even now: "Only in the Philippines."

ABADIA: I commanded a rainbow army.

'Aawitan Kita'

(From page A1)

running TV musical as her nickname in her certificate of candidacy for the first district of Makati.

Aside from "Aawitan," Siguion-Reyna wrote down the most number of nicknames: Armida, Tita Midz and Reyna.

But she will have to settle for only one monicker. Ma. Angelina Matibag, information chief of the Commission on Elections, said candidates were only allowed to use one nickname.

It was believed that the opponent of "Aawitan Kita," Teodoro M. Locsin Jr., would also use his own TV show, "Assignment" to boost his name recall.

"Rescue 911," another title of a popular TV series, belongs to Abelardo Viceo, a city councilor known to walk around in overalls. He has his own volunteer rescue unit by that name. He wants to come to the rescue of Makati City's second district.

"JFK," the initials of slain US president John Fitzgerald Kennedy, has been appropriated by Virgilio Junior Farcon to get votes in the lone district of Marikina. It was unclear how voters in his district could relate this congressional aspirant to the initials of the American president.

Nid Anima, who claims to be a nominee of the Liberal Party, goes by the nickname "Long Hair," in his certificate of candidacy for the lone district of Parañaque City.

"Banzai," a battlecry of Japanese suicide bombers during World War II, will be the other name of Ernesto Nieva, candidate of the Lakas-NUCD in the first district of Manila.

Roberto Cinco, an independent running for congress in Malabon-Navotas, wrote down "5," the numerical meaning of his name. But just to make sure, he offered a variation: "Singco."

Another independent, Allan Carreon, brought religion to bear on his certificate of candidacy to represent Pasay. His nickname? "El Shaddai."

The euphoria of People Power spills over to the campaign of Eduardo Zialcita of the Lakas-NUCD, who's running for the lone congressional seat in Parañaque. He calls himself Edza, which is also the candidate's acronym.

Some candidates like Justo Justo of Pasay City, Edcel Castelar Lagma of Quezon City and Cynthia Aguilar of Las Piñas used their initials as their other names in the ballot.

But under election rules, any ballot containing initials shall only be considered a stray vote though it will not invalidate the entire ballot.

Comelec rules

Under Section 74 of the Omnibus Election Code, a candidate may include in his certificate of candidacy "one nickname or stage name by which he is generally or popularly known in the locality."

In the rules of appreciation of ballots during the counting, the use of nicknames, if accompanied by the first name or surname of the candidate, does not invalidate a ballot.

The Comelec rules further state if the nickname is used without the name or surname of a candidate and it is the one by which he is popularly known in the locality, the name shall be counted in favor of the said candidate, unless there is another candidate with the same nickname.

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C. Rules

1. Promo duration: This promotion will start on January 26, 2001 and will end on June 11, 2001.
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3. Last day of submission of entries will be on June 11, 2001.
4. 106 winners (6 grand prizes and 100 consolation prizes).
5. Allocation of Prizes:
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      - Thirty-three (33) winners of Fujifilm Instax 100 cameras & film (16-for NCR & REGION 4 and 17-for ALL OTHER REGIONS).
   b. Photofinishing/Developing Category:
      - Two (2) winners of Ford Ranger XLT 4x2 (1-for NCR & REGION 4 and 1-for ALL OTHER REGIONS).
      - Thirty-three (33) winners of Fujifilm Instax 100 cameras & film (16-for NCR & REGION 4 and 17-for ALL OTHER REGIONS).
   c. Camera Category:
      - Two (2) winners of Speed Fight 2 Peugeot 50cc Motorcycle (1-for NCR & REGION 4 and 1-for ALL OTHER REGIONS).
      - Thirty-four (34) winners of Fujifilm Instax 100 cameras & film (17-for NCR & REGION 4 and 17-for ALL OTHER REGIONS).
6. A winner can only win once. If a name is drawn more than once, he/she gets the bigger prize in all categories. Prizes are not convertible to cash.
7. Winners shall be asked to present their claim stub portion of the raffle coupon (for photofinishing and camera category) and any of the following identification papers (School/company ID, driver's license, any ID with picture).
8. Employees of YKL, Jimenez D'Arcy and participating FUJIFILM dealers/photo shops and their representatives, including relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
9. Winners will be announced via print ads and will be notified by registered mail as to where he/she can claim the prize. Prizes can be claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification. Winners of Fujifilm Instax 100 Cameras can claim their prize at corresponding YKL owned store specified in the registered mail. Winners of Ford F-150 Lariat A/T 2000, Ford Ranger XLT 4x2 and Speed Fight 2 Peugeot 50cc Motorcycle can be claimed from Mr. Sonny Toves at YKL head office at 24 Sto. Domingo Road, Quezon City. Prizes not claimed within the given period will be forfeited in favor of YKL. with prior approval of DTI.
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OPINION

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EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

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Old politics

EDITORIAL

IT has been said that the more things change, the more they remain the same. Very true, especially of Philippine politics.

Barely six weeks ago, the Filipino people drove Joseph Estrada out of the seat of power. But that seems to be about the only significant change the second exercise of people power is destined to bring about. Everything else promises to be the same, going by the characters who have creeped into the Macapagal administration and the personalities who are trying to win the people's vote for various positions in Congress and the local governments.

. The allies of the deposed president, Joseph Estrada, are carrying on as if their idol had done absolutely nothing wrong and all the serious crimes ascribed to him—bribery, plunder of the treasury and amassing billions of pesos in illegal wealth, among them—were, to use his own favorite retort, "all lies." In fact, the former first lady, Luisa Ejercito, is leading the senatorial ticket of the Estrada loyalists which include such rabid Estrada allies as Senators Juan Ponce Enrile, Gregorio Honasan and Miriam Defensor-Santiago, as well as Estrada spokesperson Ricardo Puno, and his national police chief, Panfilo Lacson. No one is hiding his admiration for the man of many mistresses, mansions and unexplained billion-peso deposits. Puno, for instance, tells anyone who cares to listen that his group's first order of business in the Senate would be to oust President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and presumably restore Estrada to the presidency.

On the campaign trail, Lacson could have given the showy former show-biz star who became president a run for his money. Arriving on a private jet for a campaign sortie in Davao City, Lacson was whisked away from the airport in a convoy of luxurious vehicles, including a Lincoln Navigator, a Toyota Land Cruiser, a Cherokee Jeep, a Ford Expedition, a Chevrolet Suburban and a Mitsubishi Pajero. These vehicles were, of course, some of the most scandalous symbols of extravagance of the Estrada administration and the arrogance of his top officials and supporters. But Lacson and his handlers see nothing wrong with flaunting them. What was good for Estrada is apparently good for his "anointed" in 2004.

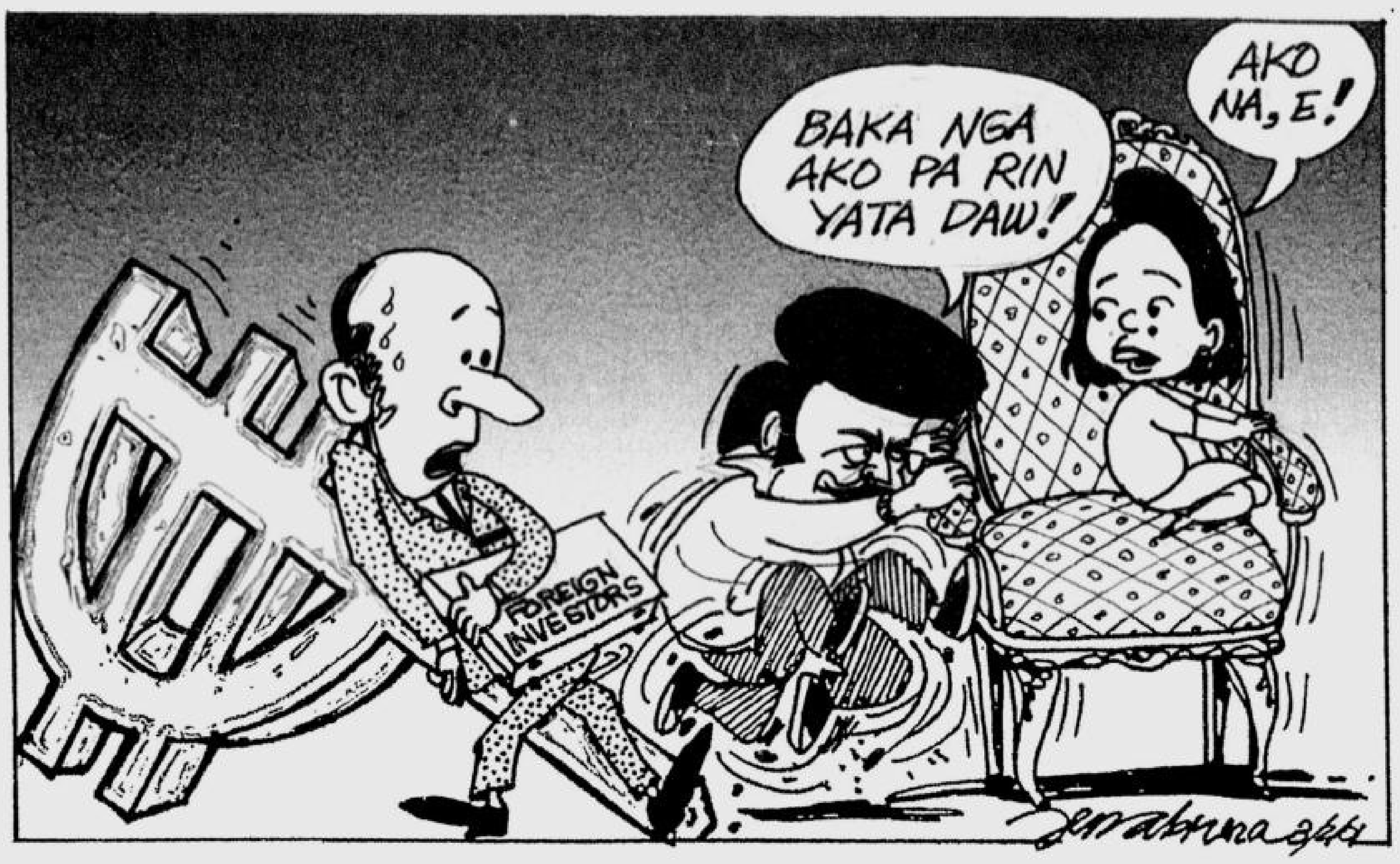
At least, the administration's senatorial candidates have demonstrated that they can tell right from wrong, and that they have the courage to act on their conviction. Each one of them helped expose Estrada's mismanagement of the government and the economy as well as the corruption in his administration, and worked to topple him.

But after coming up with a fairly good senatorial ticket, the administration coalition seems to have forgotten about the "new politics" Ms Macapagal promised to usher in during her inauguration. With few exceptions, the administration has fielded the same old faces to run for various local positions. In Pangasinan, for instance, Lakas stalwart Jose de Venecia is running for his old congressional seat preparatory to reclaiming the speakership. Then there are the movie stars who are running under the administration party. Speaker Feliciano Belmonte, the Lakas candidate for mayor of Quezon City, has four show-biz people in his ticket. Of course, Belmonte is running against action star Rudy Fernandez but whatever the latter's party may be, it has not been heard to mention something like a new politics.

Just as bad, if not worse because it violates the spirit of the Constitution which has not been fleshed out by law, is the widespread practice of fielding wives, sons or daughters. Sure the opposition has the Mathays, father and son, who both want to represent Quezon City in the House of Representatives. Also Sen. Teresita Aquino-Oreta must have taught her daughter how to dance on the floor of Congress. But why do administration leaders think they must hand down their position to family members? Cynthia Villar, wife of former Speaker and now senatorial candidate Manuel Villar, is running for the seat he is vacating. Housing Secretary Michael Defensor wants his sister, Maria Teresa, to inherit his seat in the House just like National Security Adviser Roilo Golez who wants his son, Jose Enrico, to succeed him.

And then there is the most famous example of all: Mickey Macapagal Arroyo. The President's eldest son wants to be the vice governor of Pampanga although, other than his name, there is nothing to recommend him for the position. Sure he has tried to carve out his own career, but it is an unremarkable one—as a movie star. But he and presumably his family think that is enough to prepare him for that office.

All too soon someone seems to have forgotten about the new politics. And to think she said it was one of her "core beliefs."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President Macapagal already having her own cronies?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

MARCOS and Erap were toppled largely because of the abuses of their cronies, besides their own personal greed. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has been in office barely five weeks, but it looks like she is already having her own cronies who will surely take advantage of their closeness to her for their own selfish interests.

Ms Macapagal's new cronies are in the energy sector which, because of the Omnibus Power Bill and the Oil Deregulation Law, is the fattest of all the departments in the executive branch. There are indications that the energy sector is in fact being reserved for the Lopez-Aboitiz-Alcantara-Osmeña combine, also known as PEPOA. This group has ruled the power sector for years and continues to do so today unless Ms Macapagal sets her priorities with consumers in mind.

If you will recall, one of Ms Macapagal's very early appointments was that of Jesus Alcordo, a known Aboitiz executive, as energy secretary. When he ran into a legal impediment, he was allowed to step down to be president of the National Power Corp., a position held by an Aboitiz during President Cory Aquino's administration.

According to a paper sent to journalists, "an energy secretary who would be a lapdog of the Lopez-Aboitiz-Alcantara-Osmeña combine is ominous for the Filipino electric consumers and the government. If Ms Macapagal is true to her pronouncements of protecting civil society and the consumers, she should get out of this commitment, if she has any. It was during the tenure of an Aboitiz that the Napocor failed to supply the country's power needs, resulting in the power crisis of 1991 to 1995."

What else are at stake? According to the statement, the Lopezes and Aboitizes are trying to pass on to the consumers, under the Omnibus Power Bill, their own debts amounting to billions of pesos.

"The Lopez group, or Meralco and First Gas, are known to be fighting restrictions to their grand plan to further monopolize the power sector by buying more of Napocor's power plants at bargain prices with a big part of its debts being passed on to the government and the consumers," the paper said.

"The Lopez group also has a big interest in the country's natural gas industry. Sensitive government rules can be compromised against the interest of consumers." It must be remembered that the Lopezes already control two basic services: power and water. To have these two vital public services in the hands of one group is dangerous.

"The Lopez-Aboitiz-Alcantara-Osmeña combine is now salivating over their projected takeover of electric cooperatives," the paper continued. This will be allowed under the House version of the Omnibus Power Bill that was rammed through Congress by the Villar-Belmonte-Fuentebella axis amid accusations of payola.

"Billions of pesos are at stake for consumers so that the energy portfolio cannot be left in the hands of those with conflicts of interest nor of their surrogates."

Part of the problem is the Omnibus Power Bill which was deliberately made so complex that few legislators had the time or interest to understand the impact of its provisions to the government and consumers. And the consumers do not know what is going to hit them.

"The country needs an energy secretary who understands the subtleties of the issues and who will fight for the public good," the statement said.

Incidental intelligence is that the "Lopez-Aboitiz-Alcantara-Osmeña combine is blocking other prospects as they frantically look for their own stooge. Latest to surface is an undersecretary of energy known to be sympathetic to the Lopezes' position on the bill.

"Erap was ousted because of P5 billion in alleged *jueteng* and political payoffs. A raid of the energy sector can mean P200 billion of government and consumers' money. If Ms Macapagal feels she is politically indebted to these electric utility groups, she should seek other ways to repay them than to betray electric consumers."

"Is it not enough that the Napocor is now under Aboitiz-man Alcordo?" the statement asked. "Let us have some balance and not allow the government and consumers to be at the mercy of vested interests. Put an independent and savvy guy in the Department of Energy.

"We ask Ms Macapagal to be true to her commitment to consumers."

* * *

Steakhouses are near-empty and meat sales in the markets have dropped 50 percent because of the mad cow disease scare. Beef from Ireland, one of the European countries struck by the disease, has definitely been brought into the Philippines, according to Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo, and probably processed into meat products. So even canned corned beef isn't safe. That importation, however, was supposedly properly documented and issued the proper clearances. But that is cold comfort to beefeaters.

Mad cow disease is a debilitating illness that affects the brains of cows. It also infects humans under a different name, has no known cure and causes a slow, painful death.

Even milk from infected cows is not safe. Neither is meat and milk imported from non-European countries because meat and milk from Europe can be shipped to these countries, repacked and reexported to third countries.

Actually, people should refrain from eating beef and pork because it can affect their health even without a mad cow disease epidemic. Eating beef and pork can cause a slow debilitating disease to the heart. Even the best and most expensive beef and pork contain cholesterol that clogs the coronary arteries and causes heart disease that can lead to fatal heart attacks.

Mr. Lee's 'Kuwan'

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

THERE is a famous joke about the Singapore Lee Kuan Yew created. It seems that the UN Food and Agricultural Organization conducted a worldwide survey about people's opinions on the nutritional value of beef. A Sudanese was asked and answered, "What's nutrition?" A Hindu Indian was asked and wondered, "What's beef?" Finally, a Singaporean was quizzed and, puzzled, said, "What's opinion?" In Mr. Lee's Singapore, only Mr. Lee is allowed any. Perhaps that is why he has so many.

Democracy is to Singapore what organization is to the Philippines; we both pretend we have it. You are allowed plenty of it in Singapore provided you agree with Mr. Lee. But it is difficult to argue with success.

Under the stewardship of the party Mr. Lee invented, Singapore's per capita income grew from US$508 in 1965 to over US$30,000 last year. By comparison, in the same period the Philippines' grew from US$219 to just US$1,100—the latter sum far more skewered in distribution than Singapore's. Put another way, in 1965, our per capita income was 43 percent of Singapore's; today, it is just 3.6 percent.

To give us an idea of the scale of Singapore's achievement, envision the average Filipino family of six earning P9 million a year. That would be every family in the country, squatters and street dwellers included. That is the magnitude of Singapore's success, and the measure of our failure, over the last four decades. Because of this, in substantial ways, the average Singaporean has far more freedom over his or her own life than the average Filipino does.

With facts like that, it won't be easy to dismiss Mr. Lee as just another Ed Koch, a onetime big city mayor who also talks too much. For us to do that would be like a midget arguing that an NBA player isn't really tall. Still, Mr. Lee does test one's patience.

Earlier this week, the senior minister who often goes again went again. He was quoted as saying that democracy does not work in the Philippines because the people are not educated enough. Fair enough. Jose Rizal contemplated that problem in his third and unfinished novel, "The Tagalog Nobility." Heaven knows Filipinos have said as much or much worse about ourselves.

Education is the major problem in the Philippines. It is fast deteriorating. Even our best schools and universities are yearly falling behind their regional counterparts. Local bookstores are too often mere stationery stores disguised. In the Information Technology field, India is moving aggressively far ahead of us, never mind Singapore. The national debate about education is all about salaries and fees, not about quality. Lee Kuan Yew may have a point.

Actually, the problems of Singapore and the Philippines mirror each other. Neither of us knows how to walk on two legs. We have emphasized politics over economics with the result that our economy never really grew or with it, a large middle class. And since a strong middle class is the bulwark of a mature and honest democracy, we've had problems in that department too.

Singapore, on the other hand, is as admirable as it is boring. Even spontaneity there is planned by the government. Despite the vaunted Singaporean educational system of which Mr. Lee can be justifiably proud, he doesn't think his people will ever be ready to think for themselves. Mr. Lee is effectively the world's first free market Leninist, having created a core party to enforce a dictatorship of the bourgeoisie among whose principal enemies include bubblegum. Consequently, most of us don't regard democracy and Singapore as synonyms.

The former prime minister is as free to say what he will as anyone is free to argue with him. The problem lies in the fact that he chooses to do that and still remain a member of the Cabinet of our Asean neighbor. By trying to have his proverbial cake while eating it too, he has caused serious diplomatic trouble from time to time. Malaysia has been particularly prickly over similar "Leeisms."

It is incomprehensible how someone who is so strict about following the rules in his own country can be so contemptuous of following diplomatic law and practice internationally. The solution to Mr. Lee's famous commentaries can be summed up in a choice. He can continue to be a member of the Singapore government, in which case any views he expresses will be those of his government, or he can quit and become a raconteur, scholar, or sage and earn good lecture and book fees while at it. He can't be both.

I am only too well aware of the difference between a government's views and one's own. While in government, one is not permitted the luxury of expressing one's personal views. Even presidents and prime ministers have to rein in their private views because of the devastating effect it might have on bilateral relations. You may think another head of state is an idiot but you will smile instead and call him "Your Excellency." The consequence of candor might be the expulsion of overseas Filipino workers.

The Department of Foreign Affairs is therefore right first to verify what Mr. Lee actually said and then, if warranted, to ask his government for an accounting. However, Lee Kuan Yew's contempt for us stems from the simple fact they are rich and we are poor and powerless and can do little but bluster over his comments. There are no Singaporean workers to expel.

The remedy is simple. Mr. Lee should either shut up or resign and we ought to go to work proving him wrong. History, not columnists, is the honest but cruel judge of truth.

Not over our river!

COMMENTARY

Sylvia L. Mayuga

NOT a moment too soon has President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo made a "superbody" of the Department of Tourism and handed it over to Dick Gordon. Over the past year, government's lack of integrated vision and programs has conjured another major threat to what remains of the Parañaque River, both life-support system and worthy tourist destination a mere five decades ago. Our hope is that some kind of integration of history, ecology, culture and population growth will finally begin to happen in these next few years of a young President.

This river may have been used too long as a sewerage system by uninformed riverside residents. It was however not quite the poisonous velvet sludge of industries lining the Pasig River. Today the *salambaws* and giant oysters around La Huerta Bridge at the mouth of the river have vanished with our rice paddies, fishponds and saltbeds. But there remain patches of marshland, ricefields and saltbeds where kingfishers and white gulls still fly like winged reproaches.

Much of Parañaque has become strange to its natives as the consequences of massive land conversion into roads, highways and subdivisions come home to roost in massive flooding around the "new Parañaque" spawned by the old. With flooding that rose to alarming *"lampas-tao"* levels with Typhoon Seniang last November came a creeping realization about a native terrain its natives may have been too hasty to hand over to "development" when Marcos' infrastructure program swept into town in the late '60s.

Underneath this growing infrastructure in a now two-year-old city, few but the scholars remember that Parañaque is part of the Taal Ridge running down from Tagaytay to Bacoor and Las Piñas. Had they known, one wonders whether the *"lejitimos"* (natives) would have raised a hue and cry over a South Superhighway 35 meters above sea level (ASL) and residential and business districts a mere one to two meters ASL.

High tide meeting a major tropical depression last November surfaced another piece of the puzzle—a lack of appreciation for nature's parameters dramatized by the state of the Parañaque River. Like the Tripa de Gallina connecting it to Pasay, Makati and the Pasig River, its creeks and tributaries were so choked with both garbage and illegally built human habitations that natural drainage toward Manila Bay was seriously impeded. Not only squatters of three cities clog this river with garbage. Many who are supposed to know better had built on riverbank easements, in some cases closing the river itself with concrete on subdivision boundaries.

'Tis an old, unhappy story, now a fact of life everywhere else in the monster that is Metro Manila. Having turned our backs on rivers which gave us food and centuries of pleasant water travel without the smog, can you blame the young NGO called Save the Parañaque River Foundation for finally raising that hue and cry against construction now underway for an LRT-1 extension from Baclaran to Bacoor?

Rosario Soriano, a retired history teacher now leading a gaggle of militant natives, has just handed me a manifesto with nearly 600 protesting signatures, over the plan to have this LRT-1 enter the Parañaque River mouth in the old town from the Coastal Road. It will wend its way down river toward Amvel, Mike Velarde's new subdivision a-building, and neighboring Henry Sy's latest Shoemart on Arcadio Santos Avenue before going back to the Coastal Road, passing Manny Villar's property in Las Piñas before terminating in Bacoor.

The thinking behind this BOT scheme authored by the DOTC and the private construction company SNC-Lavalin of Canada is that the LRT must go to where "ridership" is, not wait for "ridership" to come to it. If allowed, they will drive two meter-wide foundations into the river mouth where the *salambaws* and the oysters used to be and where, by the way, the Manila Bay sunset is best viewed from this old town. From there they will go clomping down the only remaining stretch of riverside mangrove in the whole of a new city aging too fast into a painted lady, precisely where the kingfishers are still innocently foraging at this writing.

Teacher Soriano, her Kababaihan ng Dongalo, and the rest of the Save the Parañaque River Foundation, bless their souls, are campaigning furiously to strike the fear of God into the souls of developers and government who have not paused to admire a blue kingfisher in an age. They argue that driving piles into the river will only increase pressure contributing to massive flooding, it will also invite more squatters to live underneath them, as too many already do under every available bridge, despoiling the river for want of toilets and garbage disposal systems every living day. Rats and diseases can only follow, especially when the whole kit and caboodle is turned over to a lackadaisical local government in a year.

It does fly in the face of history and plain good sense. Why not go straight down the Coastal Road all the way to Bacoor instead of coming into a fragile environment its natives have begun trying to save? Riders have always come to transportation, not vice-versa. And ask Gordon. Riverfronts, he reminds us, are worth their weight in gold everywhere else in the civilized world.

Mel's mandate

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHEN she was still head of the Pag-Ibig Fund, Mel Alonzo received a delegation from Quezon City composed of Rep. Mike Defensor and some of his urban poor constituents, who were inquiring if Pag-Ibig Fund could help with their community home mortgage program. "Unfortunately, Pag-Ibig can only extend loans to its members," Mel recalls, "so I had to refer them to the NHMFC," which extends financing precisely for low-cost housing projects.

Mel would recall this visit recently, upon hearing news that President Macapagal had just appointed Defensor head of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council or HUDCC, which covers all housing-related agencies, including Pag-Ibig and NHMFC. "I thought (the President) made the right choice," Mel says, "for Mike Defensor has shown his commitment to providing poor constituents with housing."

Mel herself has spent a good part of her life in pursuit of the dream to provide decent homes to the country's homeless. Before she was unceremoniously dispatched from Pag-Ibig, Mel had headed the agency since 1986, with no hint of scandal or wrongdoing attached to her. But if she thought she was leaving the housing sector behind, Mel was in for a surprise. Just two weeks after People Power II, "at the height of our euphoria," she was asked by the President to try to turn around the NHMFC, already moribund for some years.

"You don't lobby for a post like the NHMFC," says Mel, laughing. "If any other person except the President had asked me to take on the job, I would have declined. It was only because the President herself asked me to accept the post that I did."

* * *

THAT she now finds herself in the eye of controversy because of her supposedly precipitous appointment to what she calls a "hardship post" must strike Mel as an irony.

The NHMFC for now is not fully operational, confined to collecting on arrears because of huge shortfalls and questionable loans. In asking Mel to take over the agency, the President, said Mel, wanted her to make the processing of housing loans much quicker, "to benefit more poor people." Mel also saw as part of her mandate to explore ways in which to make funding for low-cost housing more sustainable and less dependent on government dole-outs and bailouts.

But no one, not even Mel, knows for now if she still has that mandate. The latest news is that Defensor has decided to stay on at the HUDCC, apparently abandoning plans to make a run for his third congressional term. And since he had premised his threat of resigning on the appointment of Mel and another housing agency head, is Defensor's decision to remain at the HUDCC the result of a compromise that includes the withdrawal of Mel's appointment?

If so, that would be another severe blow to a woman and dedicated civil servant who is guilty only of serving the government well and responding once more to the call of service, her own unhappy experience notwithstanding. If Defensor felt insulted because Mel had been appointed without having been cleared first with him, his proper reaction should have been to kick himself for not having thought of it first.

* * *

LIKE all good and sensible ideas, it's so simple and obvious it's a wonder nobody has taken it up.

"I have seen all sorts of posters for all sorts of candidates," someone remarked to me recently. "But I have yet to see a poster where all 13 People Power Coalition candidates are together. I think it's important that voters think of all of them as a team."

Indeed, how could a 13-0 vote emerge when voters are hard put to name all 13 PPC candidates in one go? The administration forces need to sell their senatoriables as a team, emphasizing that the power of political change lies in the building up of a decisive majority in the legislature.

"That's a good idea," remarked Sen. Jun Magsaysay when I broached the observation to him recently. When I brought up the same matter to Rep. Bobby Tañada, at the launching of "Newbreak," the country's latest newsweekly, he remarked that the PPC campaign managers are still getting their act together and he was sure that shared campaign materials were in the pipeline.

The Erap forces at least have the portly figure of The Pompadoured One to rally around. What do the PPC candidates stand for—as a team? What do they share in common, besides the burning desire to project themselves on the national political screen?

* * *

NOTICES: Women volunteers for the Joker Arroyo for Senator Movement (JASM) are meeting tomorrow, Saturday (March 3) at 2 p.m. at the Valle Verde Country Club in Pasig. Organizers say "all are welcome to attend this organizational meeting to help run a high-powered campaign on a shoestring budget."

For inquiries, you can call the JASM headquarters at Tel. Nos. 636-3788; 636-3791; and 636-4970.

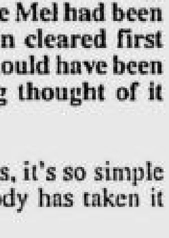
On the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8, the Bantayog ng Mga Bayani Foundation is sponsoring a "Parangal" and musical concert to honor women martyrs and heroes in the Martial Law years. The event is co-sponsored by Amnesty International—Pilipinas, Sarilaya and Makibaka-FQS.

Though hundreds of women gave up their lives or spent the better part of it fighting the Marcos regime, the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation is singling out 18 women for recognition. They are: Filomena G. Asuncion, Liza Balando, Ma. Lorena M. Barros, Sr. Mary Bernard, Cristina F. Catalla, Sr. Mary Consuelo Chuidian, Sr. Mary Conception Conti, Resteta A. Fernandez, Sr. Mary Virginia Gonzaga, Liliosa R. Hilao, Rizalina P. Hagan, Juvelyn Jaravello, Esther Misa Paredes Jimenez, Estelita G. Juco, Ma. Leticia P. Ladlad, Sr. Mary Catherine Loreto, Purificacion A. Pedro and Soledad N. Salvador.

The ritual-concert honoring these women will be held at the Bantayog Memorial Shrine, starting at 4 p.m.

Today's historian

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

EDSA II has made us all witnesses to history as it developed. Up to now those images are still flashing not only in our minds but also on our television screens. Recently, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel threw the task of judging the Estrada and Macapagal administrations on historians. All this made me reflect on the challenges facing Filipino historians at the dawn of a new millennium.

First, is the role a historian plays in our society today. In the past the stereotype image of the historian is someone buried in a table full of dusty books and moldy documents. Historians were the people who wrote about the past and in a sense played the role of keeper of a nation's memory. During the centennial years I emerged from the four walls of a classroom into print, TV, radio and even cinema reaching an audience bigger than I ever imagined. In the past year, I have noticed that as a historian I am not only asked about the past, but persistently asked to comment on the present using the past. Worse, a rather anomalous situation has emerged in Philippine media where I have been asked to review the past and present as a springboard for looking at the future. Some people seem to think I am a cross between Ernie Baron and Madame Auring.

We can blame Jose Rizal for this, Rizal whose writings have become like proverbs or distilled wisdom. Didn't he declare that "In order to foretell the destiny of a nation one has to first open the book of her past?" Was it not Rizal who wrote the famous essay "Filipinas Dentro de Cien Años" that has come down to us in English with the title "The Philippines a Century Hence" thus emphasizing this as a prophecy fulfilled? Some scholars have noted that the better translation should be "The Philippines Within a Century" a title that would soften the image of Rizal as soothsayer. But then, last Rizal Day the INQUIRER ran two front-page articles that yet again used this essay to emphasize Rizal as prophet. While I do not discount Rizal's precognitive gifts—particularly his uncanny dreams—I would like to see Rizal as a good historian or political analyst rather than a prophet.

Rizal used his knowledge of the Philippine past and present to speculate on the future. We all know that in the Philippines, within a century, Rizal correctly foresaw the coming of the United States to our shores, an observation based on his political and historical analysis rather than gazing at a crystal ball. The Philippine centennial was a means for us as a nation to look back on the past and learn from it. Unfortunately, the lives and times of our heroes—Rizal and Apolinario Mabini in particular—are seen as prophetic. Shouldn't we, a century after, look history squarely in the face and accept the sad fact that history does not repeat itself and that we are repeating history? Worse, we are repeating the mistakes of history.

But then the landscape of history is fast changing and the experience of Edsa I in 1986 and Edsa II in 2001 is marked by a leap in communications technology. I am amazed that I have lived to see a marked change in our lives because of computers and media. In retrospect, what was more challenging for Edsa I was that the media were controlled by President Ferdinand Marcos, while in 2001 we had more than two channels covering the event. Government-run Channel 4 showing cartoons or embassy features was reminiscent of the Times Journal cover story the day after Ninoy Aquino's funeral in 1983 that ignored the massive turnout and emphasized the man struck by lighting at the Luneta. Aside from Channels 2 and 7 there were many other choices for news and entertainment on cable. In 1986 the international news agencies CNN and the BBC kept people blessed with cable up to date. These days BBC and CNN are just some of the sources of information—we have other options: radio, TV, cable TV, fax machines, a better telephone system (both landline and wireless), texting and the Internet. I am glad that the documents on the impeachment can now be supplemented by voice and video recordings—the text on a page enriched by the tone of voice, the actions of the speaker and the reactions of the crowd. However, while historical documents can now be enlarged, they can also be limited which brings us to the second challenge posed to the modern historian.

I do not know what my career would have been like if I did not have the 25-volume compilation of Rizal's complete writings. What would I do without the 55-volume Blair and Robertson or even the 5-volume Taylor compilation of documents on the Philippine-American War (then referred to as the Philippine Insurrection—this paradigm shift has also changed in my lifetime)? While I have used these handy volumes a great deal, I have always been conscious of the gaps in these primary sources. Why, for example, were potentially scandalous letters of Suzanne Jacoby left out of the "Epistolario Rizalino," the first compilation of Rizal's correspondence compiled in the 1930s? Why has this former "girlfriend" of Rizal been taken off the list? Is it because she was probably a prostitute or a woman of loose morals? Unfortunately, historians will keep guessing because these letters were destroyed with the National Library during the Battle for Manila in 1945. ***(Conclusion on Wednesday)***

Missed opportunities

HIGH BLOOD

Consuelo D. Sison

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

I TURNED 80 last January. Looking back to all those years of life combining career (teaching and administering schools) with homemaking and child-rearing, I can only count my blessings and thank God for those opportunities to show love and care to all persons whose lives I have touched.

Not without a tinge of regret for not having been able to share myself more with my family and my friends, I now realize I have missed many opportunities of showing more love and concern for others, of giving a peck on the cheek, of giving a firm handshake even a warm embrace, of writing more letters, even short notes more often.

I started living in the desert in December 1994 when my husband was stricken ill and became incapacitated by a severe cerebral hemorrhage. When he came home from the hospital, our bedroom became a hospital room with three nurses round the clock helping me minister to him. He was a very good patient until he passed away quietly one early morning last June after five and a half years of being bedridden.

In such a difficult time when my beloved lost the social traits that drew others to him, his sense of humor and kindness, the support of family and friends became more important than ever. And when he lost control over language he sometimes became a virtual stranger because I somehow lost the intimacy I once shared with him. Caring for him needed unlimited patience and self-control to cope with the repetitive, unintelligible conversations, the sometimes complete silence and the extreme changes in his character.

They say that the process of mourning for the loss of a loved one undergoes four phases—first, denial then anger, followed by depression and finally, acceptance. These emotions and thoughts come in distinct stages, but for some these linger over a long period of time. I was unable to grieve at the moment of loss during my husband's death. I was too numb to weep. Compounded by the pressure to appear self-possessed, I adopted a mask of composure which allowed me to carry on with life as usual; when in fact I needed to give way to the depth of my feelings.

When death came at the end of my husband's prolonged and painful illness, my feelings took longer to sort out. I may have already given way to grief much earlier, for the loss of the whole, well person I used to know. I may have felt a sense of release for myself and for him after his prolonged suffering. But later, intense and renewed feelings of loneliness surfaced. No matter how I prepared mentally for the inevitable, there was still the shock, even surprise when he finally died. The thing that is so hard to deal with is that the person who had been a reality of my life no longer existed.

A big consolation and a comforting thought is the Christian belief that human beings are not just bodies which are perishable but are spirits which are eternal. Hence there should be rejoicing, not grief at a loved one's release into a glorious new life of reality. Comforting too is the thought that death is not a termination of human life because his influence will continue until the last person who knew him shall have died.

The forced interruption of an otherwise relaxed life of travel to different parts of the world to visit children and grandchildren, has given me the chance to discover and use hidden resources which I never knew I had. I became involved in community affairs, even national ones like NGOs and alumni associations. I am also thankful to have new additions to my circle of friends and have begun writing memories for my grandchildren, hoping these will be their bridge to their roots even if some of them will grow up in foreign lands.

For all my flaws and failures, I realize more than ever now that there are intangible absolutes and moral imperatives, spiritual realities and values that one can break and abandon only at one's peril—such as honesty and forthrightness and courage to speak out for truth and justice. One's priorities must be sorted out and lived if one is to be worthy of his dignity and destiny as a child of God.

I also realize that we must not lose our bearings in the quest for material progress and forget to focus on what we can touch, what we can see, what we can feel, what we can create and enjoy. We must look for our roots, a point of departure to map out our course in life and give it direction. To give meaning to our search, this needs to be accompanied with full awareness of one's debt to the past, an inescapable obligation to the present and responsibility for the future.

But it was too late when I realized that my life could have been so much better. It is only when I came to a spiritual desert that suddenly the full realization of lost opportunities hit me like a thunderbolt.

When I turned 80, the realization of missed opportunities has now given me the impetus to exert more effort with urgency and compulsion in order to give meaning and purpose to the rest of my earthly existence and to help make my part of the world a little better, a bit healthier, safer and pleasant for others to live in. And more importantly, to be more generous with my hugs and words of praise.

Consuelo D. Sison, 80, is a retired school administrator in Quezon City. She has 13 children and 28 grandchildren.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...?

Australian's death

IAN Joseph Pike, a 48-year-old businessman from Sydney, Australia, was shot on midday of Aug. 18, 1997 by a man near his home in Dagat-Dagatan, Malabon. He sustained a gunshot wound in the head which caused his death. The gunman immediately left the place. (PDI, 9/10/97)

Malabon police said Lucille Santarina, Pike's wife, confessed her role in the murder through a policewoman, SPO4 Teresita Dozon, who acted as a deep penetration agent. Dozon allegedly befriended Santarina and got her confidence. The police concluded that Santarina masterminded the plot to kill the Australian. The police report said that Pike found out about Santarina's affair with their former 19-year-old driver Benedict Gellado. Santarina planned the killing because she was being maltreated by her husband. The police consequently arrested her. Also arrested were Gellado and his mother Flor Noma, alleged hit man Diosdado Enriquez and his live-in partner Nenita Leuterio. Santarina said the other accused were extorting money from her. She stated that they told her they would implicate her in her husband's death if she would not give them money.

Santarina was temporarily released from custody by prosecutor Bonifacio Sison due to lack of evidence. The remaining suspects, except for Gellado, were charged with murder at the Malabon Regional Trial Court along with two unidentified accomplices, one male and one female. The case was assigned to Judge Benjamin Aquino Jr. of Branch 72.

Later, prosecutor Nepthali Aliposa was able to gather enough evidence against Santarina. The prosecutor then charged her with parricide with the Malabon RTC. The case was subsequently consolidated with the murder charge against the other accused.

Case status: On Oct. 8, 1999, the court found Santarina and Enriquez guilty beyond reasonable doubt of the crimes of parricide and murder, respectively. They were sentenced to life imprisonment and were ordered to pay P50,000 each. Life sentence was meted out to them and not death "due to the absence of any generic aggravating circumstances as well as any mitigating circumstances…" Noma and Leuterio were acquitted when their guilt was not established beyond reasonable doubt. Santarina elevated her case to the Court of Appeals. ***Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department***

Small things

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

"LET me clarify," says President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. "My administrative order does not say I cannot appoint family members. My administration order says that agencies cannot entertain my relatives in matters of contracts, supplies and appointment to position."

That was the principle Ms Macapagal cited to justify signing the appointment papers of her daughter to the Department of Foreign Affairs. Her administrative order of Jan. 22, she says, bans her relatives from transacting with government where they are bound to exercise undue advantage. It does not ban her relatives from public service. Especially so where the relatives are deserving. Her daughter, Luli Arroyo, was among the 3,000 who took the exams for the DFA and among the three who passed. Ms Macapagal was still Vice President then. After she became President, she signed the appointment papers of the two others who passed. It's unfair to her daughter, she says, if she doesn't sign her papers as well.

Well, as a parent, I can understand her dilemma. All of us want our children to succeed and will do everything in our power for them within the bounds of law and reason. But I myself would like my daughter to succeed on her own terms. I would not wish her to suffer the rest of her life from the cloud of doubt that she owes her success to me, or to my intervention. At the very least, that's what's wrong with Ms Macapagal's decision. Ultimately, it does not do her daughter justice, it does her a disservice. Henceforth, none of her daughter's promotions in the DFA will be seen as a sign of talent or hard work, they will always be seen as a sign of her meddling.

The disservice to the nation is more patent.

First off, there is such a thing as *delicadeza*. I've always thought that concept suggested not standoffish dignity, the kind harbored only by old-school ladies and gentlemen who reside in ivory towers, but old-fashioned sense of propriety, the kind harbored by folk who have their feet planted on the ground. There are practical reasons for *delicadeza*, reasons that derive from experience particularly in a culture steeped in strong interpersonal relationships. You accept gifts or perks from public officials "with no strings attached," and you know you're deluding yourself. There are reciprocities involved there, though much of which is left unsaid.

From the other end, you are in power and you appoint a close relative to an office where her superiors are answerable to you with the order that your relative be treated "just like any other employee," and you know you are deluding yourself. You know you are unleashing sycophancy and intrigue, turning your relative into an enclave of power unto herself in her department.

Delicadeza is the art of not putting yourself in that situation, understanding its not too subtle implications only too well. Some may call it grace or gentility or good breeding—and they are probably that too. Others would call it imagination or just plain common sense. Ramon Magsaysay had it, and refrained from promoting a brother in the AFP when he was defense chief, a fact that much angered his brother who thought he deserved it. He argued otherwise, saying that whether true or not, it would never be seen at such by the public or by the men in uniform themselves, and would create demoralization among them.

It's a price to pay for power, and a very small one. Which brings me to the second more important reason why Ms Macapagal's appointment of her daughter to the DFA does the nation a disservice. That is that more than any leader of this country, she is expected to live by very high standards. That owes to the very way she obtained power. There is a price to pay for it, and it is *not* a very small one.

Ms Macapagal is not an elected President. She is President only by virtue of the people doing a heroic deed, which was ousting a tyrant from office. More than being voted to office by an overwhelming mandate—which was what Erap got—that imposes a monumental burden on the person who is put in power that way. At the very least, you have to prove yourself worthy of your countrymen's self-sacrifice. At the very most, you have to live up to their expectations of heroic conduct. The people did not risk life and limb just so they could get a mediocre leader to rule them.

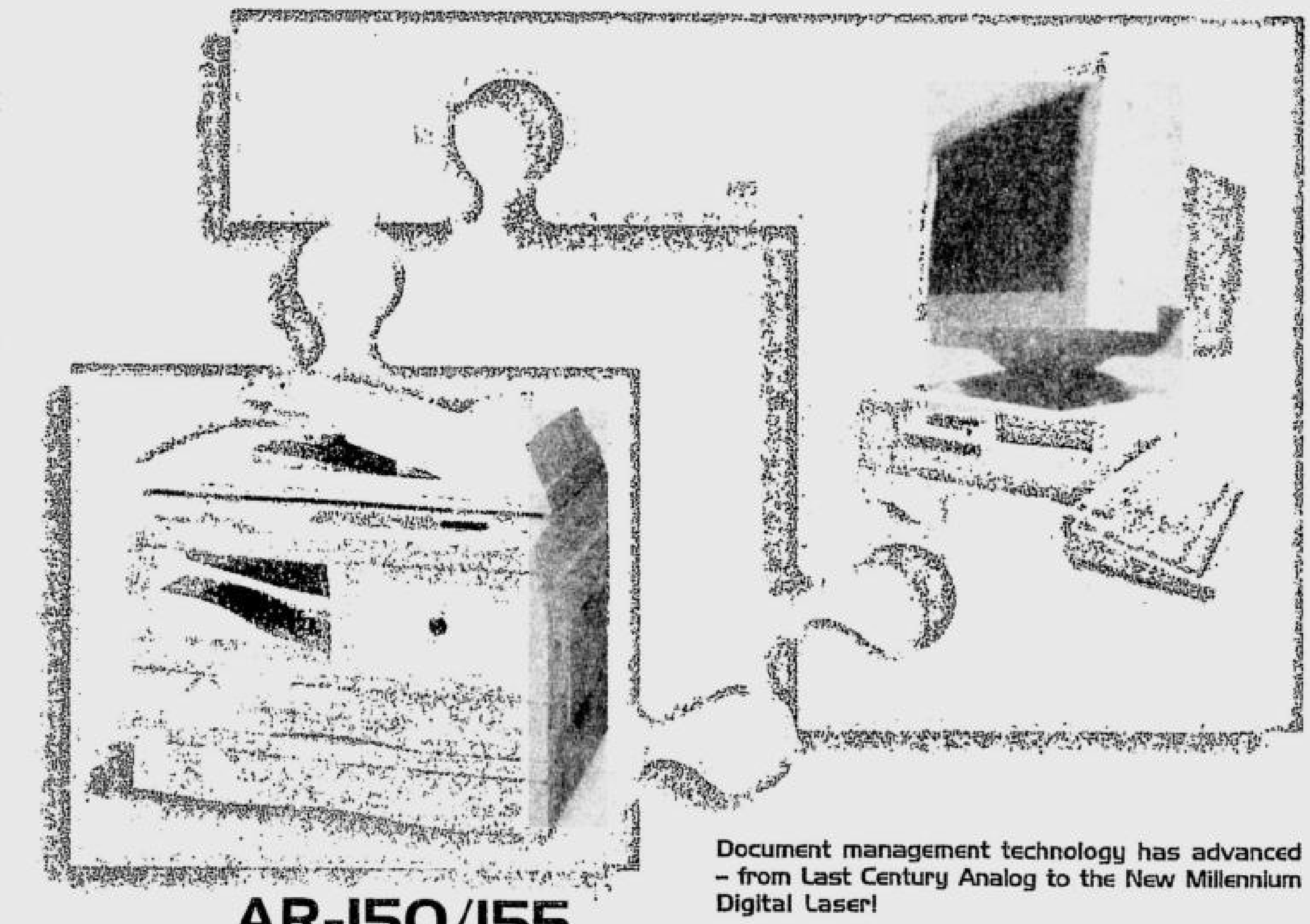
The demands on Ms Macapagal are doubly exacting because she is the gratuitous beneficiary of the people's action. She won't change that by ex-post facto revelations of secret meetings with the generals to suggest a more active role in People Power II, which do not aid her cause at all, and suggest only more deviousness and opportunism. She will change that only by showing that though lucky she is not undeserving, though hitherto untouched by greatness she is not incapable of being so.

I thought Ms Macapagal missed the significance of her coming to power the way she did when she told her audience during her first day at Malacañang that she did not wish to be a great President, only a good one. Goodness is not a good way to repay magnificence. Raising the quality of rule to awe-inspiring heights is. But even if you just went by the tepid standards of "good President," how can sending a daughter to the department that takes care of the nation's diplomacy be a sign of it?

There is one last reason why Ms Macapagal's decision to appoint her daughter to the DFA does the nation a disservice. Which is that it does the People Power Coalition candidates a disservice. Those candidates, as I said yesterday, will be seen as extensions of her administration, whether they like it or not, and whatever she does between now and the elections will impact on them. Ms Macapagal's decision to sign her daughter's papers to the DFA, notwithstanding that her daughter passed the exams, may seem like a small matter, but that is precisely its problem. It's not the big matters ultimately that bring people down, it's the small ones.

It's the seemingly trifling details that prove lethal in the end. It's not grand larceny that sticks in the public mind, it's knifing a taxi driver to death for a couple of thousand bucks that does. It's not owning mansions that sticks in the public mind, it's signing a check with another name while being the president of the country that does. It's not putting Dick Gordon in the Department of Tourism that sticks in the public mind, it's putting a presidential daughter in the department of public affairs that does.

Pettiness kills, often more thoroughly than malevolence.



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THE HECK they call it mob rule—we'll do it again!

Any time the current President, or any future president of the country for this matter, opens a bank account from where questionable transactions are done in staggering amounts plainly disproportionate to his income and in front of two senior bank officials, signs a fictitious name, indulges in the bacchanalian pursuit of mistresses and lovers and in the process simultaneously resorts to immoral deals to maintain the extravagant lifestyles of the mistresses, and so on down the sordid line of knavery—we will do it again without hesitation! The greater number of right-thinking people of the country will gather again at Edsa and everywhere else and kick out the culprit!

And we could not care less if any foreign media, any foreign leader or anybody call it mob rule, unconstitutional, a dangerous precedent, fomenting a banana republic or whichever way they want to call it. That's their business. The business of the people of this country is to see to it that honor, integrity and a true desire and capacity for governance are upheld in the highest public office of the land.—**BENJAMIN L. SIM, 30 Scout Tuazon St., Quezon City**

Two-way traffic on Quezon Circle?

I BEG to differ with the observation of Neal H. Cruz that there is no need for the traffic signals at the six intersections along the Quezon Memorial Circle. (PDI, 2/16/01)

But while I'm fully in favor of the installation of those traffic lights (without regard, of course, on how the signal equipment was procured), there are certain conditions that have to be met prior to signalization. For one, the eight-lane thoroughfare with the center island still intact should carry two-way traffic like before.

A non-stop, one-way flow of vehicles on the rotunda is not feasible because we have to consider the safety of pedestrians and promenaders going to and from the Circle. Moreover, in a situation where there are no traffic lights, this will only create more traffic conflicts among vehicles as well as between motorists and pedestrians.

Retaining the present one-way scheme will render the inner lanes underutilized as the tendency of motorists is to use the outer lanes in preparation for making a right turn.

Vehicles traveling along the signalized two-way road system will have to stop some time to give way not only for turning vehicles but also for pedestrians to safely cross the wide thoroughfare as they go to or from the park. I still believe that the safety of pedestrians should not be sacrificed in favor of fast-moving vehicles.

To ensure the orderly movement of vehicles along the Circle, the traffic signals in all the six intersections should be synchronized at all times.

I still believe the Traffic Engineering Center should be given a free hand in attending to the traffic engineering needs of the whole system. Right now traffic signal operation and maintenance are being done by the Metro Manila Development Authority, an agency which, we must admit, has no trained personnel to undertake this highly technical function.—**TRANQUILINO S. ATIENZA, Marcelo Green Village, Parañaque City**

Old differences over logging revived

I HAVE two friends who were long ago at loggerheads over the best way to preserve our forests: either a total log ban or a selective log ban. Recently, one of them said that the other should not be heading the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

My friends are Sen. Nene Pimentel and Rep. Sonny Alvarez.

It saddens me to witness this revival of policy differences. I feel that the move initiated by Pimentel appears to preempt the prerogative of the President to nominate persons to her Cabinet and negates deliberations and confirmation or rejection by the Committee on Appointments. It may be construed by some as exercising a veto power where no veto power is perhaps intended.

Both these men were courageous fighters against the dictatorship. I need not dwell lengthily on their biographies; these are permanently inscribed in our history. Both suffered persecution and they are bonded by the struggle and sacrifices they endured. They have again demonstrated their adherence to idealism and high moral standards in government by their recent political actions. Alvarez was in the forefront of the impeachment process in the House and throughout the rallies to impeach or oust then President Estrada while Pimentel conducted himself admirably during the blue ribbon committee hearings and when he sided with nine other senator-judges. His vote was an affirmation together with the other nine senators of my interpretation of that old Roman emblem, SPQR. These 10 are the honorable members of the Senate and the people of the Philippines. Not so the unworthy 11.

To these my two friends, I ask, can I figuratively share coffee with both of you while you deliberate on an environment issue that perhaps the passing of time has already resolved? If policy differences on the environment still exist today, should nomination by the President and confirmation by the Committee on Appointments be closed? Why not talk about it over a cup of coffee?—**MIGUEL PEREZ-RUBIO, Makati City**

MAD getting no gov't funds

ON BEHALF of the Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD), we reply to Martin P. Marfil's article titled, "Party-list groups questioned," published last Feb. 19.

MAD is not a quasi-government group. Neither does it receive government funding, particularly from local government units. Department of Interior and Local Government Executive Order No. 250 dated May 24, 2000, on which this funding claim is alleged, does not in any way mention MAD as a beneficiary of any local government unit. This can easily be verified.

Secondly, Article VI, Paragraph 5(2) of the 1986 Constitution dictates the constitutional requirements and prohibitions in relation to an enabling law pertaining to party-list representatives. Republic Act No. 7941 titled, "An Act Providing for the Election of Party-List Representatives Through the Party-List System," defines what party may run as a political or sectoral party or a coalition of parties. Section 3(e) of the law provides: "A sectoral organization refers to a group of citizens or a coalition of groups of citizens who share similar physical attributes or characteristics, employment, interest or concerns." MAD qualifies under this provision.

From the foregoing, it is clear that the basis of the complaint against MAD is unfounded as it is not a beneficiary of any government funds, directly or indirectly. MAD is likewise a movement which has a cause which needs to be addressed properly and is recognized by the enabling law.

Besides, is not "drug awareness" a concern of every Filipino? Is the illegal drug problem in the country getting better, especially for the youth? Is it not right that a group should concentrate efforts such as legislation on bringing this problem under effective control? Anti-illegal drug bills have been pending in Congress for quite some time and they have not been enacted into law. Why?—**CONSTANTINO L. NAVARRO III, corporate secretary and trustee, Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD), Suite 1504, The Centerpoint Condominium, Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City**

Best photo of GMA

YOUR front-page photo last Thursday, Feb. 22, was the most attractive photo I have ever seen in a very long while. I have never seen President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo looking so lovely, blooming and glowing with happiness.

The face of Rep. Joker Arroyo was absolutely adorable. He looked like a shy, naughty imp.

Lest I be accused of making *sipsip*, I will use a pen name.—**CAROLLA DIAZ, tiffanyashley letmebe@yahoo.com**

Erratum

PATRICIA Santo Tomas was appointed labor secretary, not chair of the Civil Service Commission as published in our editorial of March 1. Our apologies.—**Ed.**

BORNEO VIOLENCE

Indon gov't considers martial law

MEGAWATI

SAMPIT, Indonesia—Indonesia's Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri yesterday toured the riot-torn province of Central Kalimantan to decide whether a civil emergency was needed to stop ethnic violence, which has claimed hundreds of lives.

Before she left Jakarta, more than 500 student protesters briefly rallied outside her residence.

The government has so far resisted calls to declare a state of emergency—one step from martial law—in the province located on the Indonesian part of Borneo Island.

At least 469 people have died since violence erupted 12 days ago. Around 25,000 Madurese are currently sheltering in squalid camps, short of food and medicine, waiting to flee.

An Indonesian Navy warship with some 3,000 refugees on board yesterday left from Sampit river port, adding to the 16,000 people who have already been evacuated. Officials said a second ship was due to depart later in the day to Indonesia's main island of Java.

The atrocities have underscored Indonesia's growing inability to control ethnic and separatist violence after four decades of dictatorship.

Megawati, who was accompanied by other parliamentary leaders and armed forces chief Adm. Widodo Adisutjipto, visited Sampit—site of the largest refugee camp and scene of some of the worst violence, including numerous beheadings.

Both Megawati and President Abdurrahman Wahid have come under fire for their lethargic reaction to the crisis.

Critics have also slammed the security forces, which largely stood by as Dayak gangs slaughtered Madurese migrants and their descendants. The Dayaks, who are native to Borneo, say they will use force to expel all Madurese from the island.

Instead of intervening to stop the slaughter, police and troops fought each other amid allegations both were forcing refugees to pay bribes to secure places on refugee boats leaving the area.

Police, who are under orders to shoot rioters on sight, said they had confiscated hundreds of machetes, spears and other homemade weapons and arrested more than 100 people.

However in Parenggean town, police Brig. Abdul Rahman said there were no plans to arrest the Dayak mob that massacred 118 Madurese on Sunday.

Wallets, bloodstained shoes and clothes littered the ground. Nearby eight decomposing bodies still lay in a burnt-out car.

Rahman said frightened Madurese were still hiding in surrounding jungles and a team had been dispatched to look for them.

Wahid, who is on a 15-day overseas trip, has dismissed calls that he should return home, saying Megawati was capable of solving the problem.

Speaking to reporters in Nigeria on Tuesday, the president urged people to stay calm and said the military was in control of the situation.

He also said the Madurese should be allowed to return to Borneo.

"Every Indonesian citizen has the right to live anywhere within Indonesia," he said as quoted by state news agency Antara.

Over the past 40 years, more than 100,000 Madurese have settled in Kalimantan on Borneo Island as part of a government program to relieve overcrowding on Madura. *AP*

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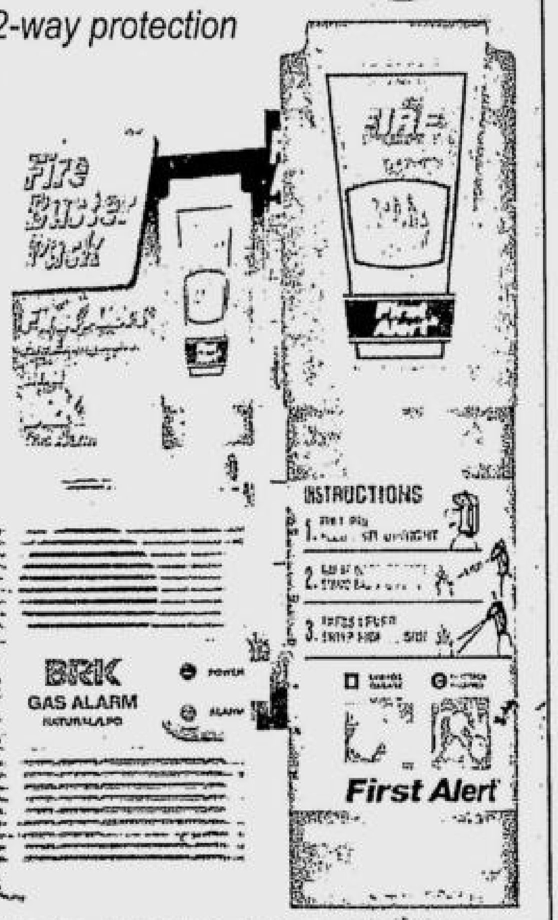

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250 INJURED IN SEATTLE

6.8-quake shakes northwest US

SEATTLE—A powerful earthquake rocked the northwestern United States, shattering windows, showering bricks onto sidewalks and sending terrified crowds running into the streets in cities including Seattle and Portland, Oregon.

Despite the 6.8 magnitude, damage and injuries from Wednesday's temblor were relatively minor, which experts attributed to the quake's depth. About 250 people were reported injured in Seattle and Olympia, officials said. At least three of them were in serious condition, but none of the injuries were considered critical, officials said.

The earthquake temporarily shut down the Seattle airport, knocked out power to hundreds of thousands of people, cracked the dome atop the Capitol in Olympia and briefly trapped about 30 people atop the swaying landmark Space Needle, 180 meters above the city.

"It was a very long, very rough quake," said Betty Emanual, who was trapped in her law firm's 39th-floor office in downtown Seattle.

Paulette DeRooy, who scrambled onto a fire escape in a Seattle office building, said, "Everyone was panicked."

The quake hit at 10:54 a.m. (Thursday, manila time) and was centered 56 km southwest of Seattle, according to the National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colorado. It was the strongest to hit Washington state in 52 years.

Experts said its depth—in a fault about 53 km underground—spared the Northwest catastrophic damage.

Officials said millions of dollars spent to remodel buildings and highways to protect against earthquakes had paid off: Damage could run into the billions, but that was considered light in a highly developed area with more than 3 million residents.

In contrast, the magnitude-6.7 quake in Los Angeles in 1994 struck just 11 miles underground. It caused an estimated $40 billion in damage and killed 72 people.

The Northwest quake was felt as far away as British Columbia and southern Oregon, 480 km away. Buildings in downtown Portland, 225 km from the epicenter, swayed for nearly a half-minute and crowds gathered on street corners to talk about the quake.

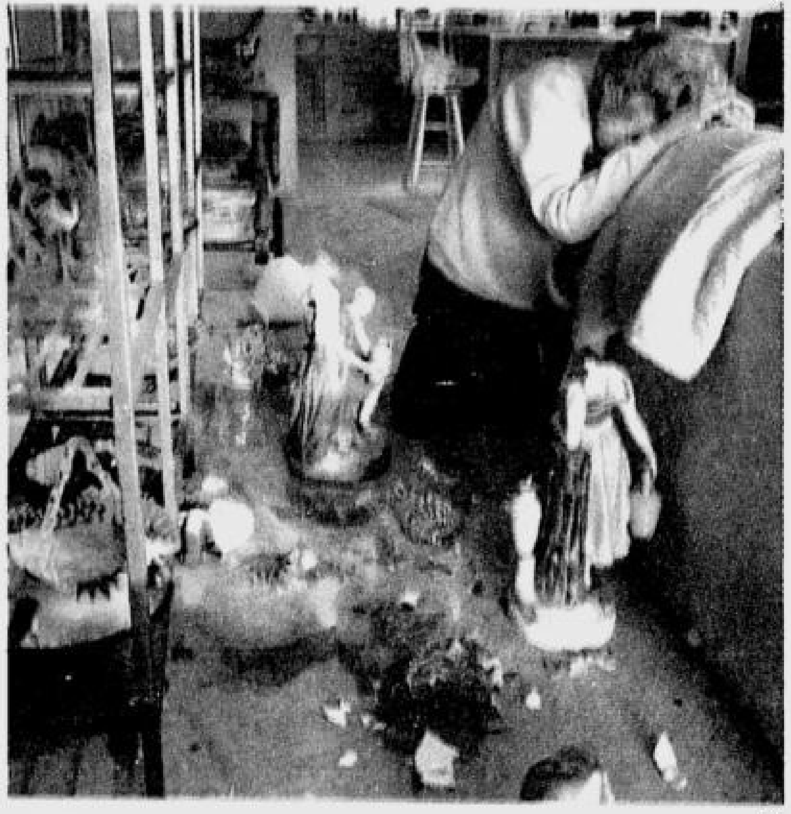
A woman in her 60s died of a heart attack in suburban Seattle at about the time of the quake, however officials said they couldn't attribute her death to the earthquake with certainty.

President George W. Bush asked the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Joe Allbaugh, to travel to Seattle to offer help.

"Our prayers are with those who were injured and their families and with the many thousands of people whose lives have been disrupted," Bush said.

Gov. Gary Locke declared a state of emergency, freeing state resources and clearing the way for federal aid. After surveying the quake damage by helicopter, he estimated it at more than $1 billion in western Washington alone.

Screams erupted at a Seattle hotel where Microsoft founder Bill Gates was addressing an education and technology conference. He was whisked away as his audience bolted for the exits. Some people were knocked down by others trying to get out. Overhead lights crashed to the floor. *AP*



AP

A DEVASTATED Vivian Crow of Rocky Point, Washington, reacts to the destruction of nearly every treasure in her home, following a powerful earthquake that rocked the Puget sound area.

WORLDBRIEFS

Court rules gov't illegal

SUVA, Fiji—The military-backed government installed after a nationalist coup was illegal and must return power to the country's democratically elected parliament within two weeks, Fiji's court of appeal ruled yesterday. Ruling that the interim government had not proved its right to rule, the court said President Ratu Josefa Iloilo must summon lawmakers and step down by March 15. It said parliament was never dissolved by the coup and Fiji's Constitution remained in effect. "We concluded that the interim civilian government has not proven it has the acquiescence generally of the people of Fiji, accordingly it cannot be recognized as the legal government," presiding judge Justice Maurice Casey said. *AP*

Suicide 'organizers' nabbed

BEIJING—Authorities have arrested two men accused of organizing an attempted group suicide in Beijing by purported followers of the banned Falun Gong spiritual sect, a Chinese newspaper yesterday said. Five people doused themselves with gasoline and set themselves ablaze on Tiananmen Square in the Jan. 23 suicide attempt. One woman died and the others remain hospitalized. Gory footage of the self immolations captured by security cameras has been repeatedly shown on state television, portrayed as proof of government claims that Falun Gong is an evil cult and justification for the often violent 19-month crackdown on the group. The China Daily identified those arrested as Liu Yunfang, a 57-year-old former factory worker and Falun Gong practitioner, and Xue Hongjun, another sect follower who it did not further identify. Neither Liu nor Xue set themselves on fire and the paper did not say what crimes they were charged with. *AP*

Sub commander's burden

NEW YORK—The commander of the submarine that collided with a Japanese fishing boat says the accident is "a burden I will carry with me for the rest of my life." In an interview with People magazine scheduled to be on US newsstands Friday, Navy Cmdr. Scott Waddle recounted the moment he realized the USS Greeneville had hit the other vessel during an emergency surfacing maneuver Feb. 9. "When I saw the Ehime Maru sinking, through the periscope, after we hit, a part of me died," Waddle said in his first published interview since the accident. "Then I saw (men) in the lifeboats. They told me they had gotten out all (of them.) "When I heard from the Coast Guard that nine men were unaccounted for, I felt as if my very heart had been ripped out of my chest." Thirty-five people were aboard the Ehime Maru when the Greeneville struck it from underneath while conducting emergency surfacing practice off Honolulu. *AP*

Disease fighters: Ebola, HIV

PARIS—Ebola and HIV, two of the most terrifying viruses known to Man, are being harnessed to fight a killer lung disease. In a remarkable tale of poachers-turned-gamekeepers, Ebola and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes AIDS are being called upon along with the flu virus to help treat people with cystic fibrosis. Scientists hope to cure inherited lung diseases with gene therapy, in which a gene is tucked inside a harmless virus. Like the Trojan Horse, the virus would infect the lung cells, delivering a good gene to replace the flawed gene that causes the ailment. The problem, though, is finding a Trojan Horse smart enough to penetrate the thick wall of the lungs, which in the case of cystic fibrosis are covered by a mucus barrier. This is where Ebola and the flu virus, both notorious for attacking the lungs, come in, the monthly journal Nature Biotechnology reports in its March issue. *AFP*

Milosevic faces arrest

BELGRADE—Former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic is expected to be arrested this month, according to sources here, as a probe begins into allegations that he took 173 kg of gold out of the country. The Belgrade prosecutor said Wednesday that he had asked police to investigate the allegations that Milosevic sent the gold to Switzerland and stashed the proceeds of its sale elsewhere. The news, reported by the Beta news agency, is the latest sign that the Yugoslav authorities are closing in on Milosevic who is also wanted by the International War Crimes Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY) for alleged war crimes. *AFP*

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

Couple gets death sentence

MALOLOS, Bulacan—A Regional Trial Court judge here sentenced a couple to death for killing a tricycle driver in March 1996. Judge Victoria Bernardo found Bibiano and Angelica Siapco of Baliuag town guilty of strangling and beating Elmer Bernardo inside their house. Court records showed the Siapcos had plotted to steal the victim's tricycle.
Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Cop charged with murder

TUGUEGARAO CITY—A policeman was charged with murder and robbery-in-band before the Nueva Vizcaya prosecutor's office in connection with the killing of another policeman in Sta. Fe, Nueva Vizcaya, last year. Chief Supt. Rowland Albano, police regional director, said PO1 Joel Estrella was suspected to have led a New People's Army team that killed a policeman and wounded another in an attack in Sta. Fe in December last year. He said Estrella had not been reporting for work since. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Vice mayor faces gun rap

TUGUEGARAO CITY—A vice mayor of Nueva Vizcaya has been charged with illegal possession of firearms. Police arrested Vice Mayor Andres Camania of Alfonso Castañeda town last week after they found an M-14 rifle, a .45-cal. pistol, magazines, bullets and a black holster inside his house. The official posted a P200,000 bail.
Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Suspected cop killer falls

CEBU CITY—A suspect in the killing of retired Supt. Andres Sarmiento, former city police director, has been arrested. Oscar Jumamil, 37, a former Army soldier, was cornered by policemen at his mother's house in Puerto Bogo, Cagayan de Oro City, where he had been hiding for more than a month, on Feb. 23. Jumamil admitted killing Sarmiento on Jan. 12 in self-defense, but police officials belied his claim, citing an autopsy report showing that Sarmiento was shot twice in the back of his head.
Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

Policeman shot dead

BURUANGA, Aklan—A lone gunman shot dead a policeman and wounded another on Sunday midnight in Sitio Guibongan, Barangay Alegria here. PO3 Jupiter de Mateo of the Buruanga police died from bullet wounds in the head and chest, while PO3 Neri Sualog had bullet wounds in the arm, shoulder and back and was brought to a hospital in Kalibo. SPO2 Tito Patricio, town police chief, identified the suspect as Cristuto Lachica, a native of Balete. Police said the two policemen were responding to a report that Lachica allegedly threatened to shoot a tricycle driver.
Odon S. Bandiola, PDI Visayas Bureau

Cops receive bomb threat

BACOLOD CITY—The city police office received a bomb threat about 11 a.m. on Monday, barely two days after an explosion ripped off the roof of its training center. SPO3 Rowe Villagracia received a call from an unidentified man who said a bomb would go off anytime inside the office. Police personnel and civilian employees were ordered to leave the building, but no bomb was found after an hour of searching.
Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Jobs fair in Kidapawan

DIGOS CITY—Hundreds of people looking for jobs as factory workers in Taiwan flocked to the two-day "Jobs Fair" at the North Cotabato capitol in Amas, Kidapawan City, on Monday, according to radio reports. Jobseekers also lined up to avail themselves of the provincial government's pledge to lend them money to pay for placement fees. The fair was organized by the provincial government through its Human Resource and Management Office.
Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 32° Lo 22°	Baguio Hi 24° Lo 15°	Tuguegarao Hi 31° Lo 21°	Laoag Hi 32° Lo 25°
Clark Zone Hi 32° Lo 23°	Tagaytay Hi 30° Lo 21°	Legazpi Hi 30° Lo 25°	Calapan Hi 33° Lo 24°
Bacolod Hi 30° Lo 25°	Roxas Hi 30° Lo 27°	Cebu Hi 30° Lo 25°	Tacloban Hi 30° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos Hi 32° Lo 24°	Zamboanga Hi 32° Lo 25°	Cagayan de Oro Hi 30° Lo 24°	Davao Hi 30° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

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Anti-'trapo' groups target illegal campaign posters

OLONGAPO CITY—Anti-*trapo* (traditional politicians) activists here warned that they would remove posters of candidates displayed outside the Commission on Elections' designated poster areas.

Members of the newly formed Wais na Botante, a group campaigning against traditional politicians, released in their e-mail network (WAIS@yahoogroups.com) a list of senatorial candidates who have allegedly violated Comelec rules on designated poster areas in the Subic Bay area.

The group tagged Representatives Ralph Recto (Batangas) and Manuel Villar (Las Piñas City), former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson, former Press Secretary Ricardo Puno Jr. and former Bulacan Gov. Roberto Pagdanganan among the violators.

John Bayarong, Wais spokesperson, said the candidates' posters were "profusely displayed" along the Zambales national road, Bataan highway and major roads in Olongapo.

Bayarong challenged the candidates to "publicly order their supporters to remove the illegal posters and enforce discipline among their political wards."

He noted that "candidates usually order their campaigners to place their posters everywhere and then blame their overeager supporters."

Comelec officials in Olongapo said they have identified common poster areas for local and national candidates. These are found at churches, schools, public markets and other public places.

Wais na Botante, led by the Olongapo chapters of Sanlakas and the Partido ng Manggagawa, agreed to help the Comelec remove illegally posted campaign materials.

Its members reiterated their call for the public to mark with a red letter "X" the campaign materials of candidates identified as traditional politicians.

Elizabeth Borja, city election officer, said her agency would tap church groups and non government organizations to ensure the conduct of peaceful and honest elections in the city.

Olongapo has 119,220 registered voters. Borja said the number was expected to increase once the processing of qualified voters who have transferred residence to the city have been completed. *Elizabeth Marcelo, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Singsons, Josons lead local battles

By THE PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU AND CENTRAL LUZON DESK

SINGSON

JOSON

THE BATTLE for local positions in Northern and Central Luzon is marked with the flexing of political muscles of local dynasties.

The Singsons of Ilocos Sur and the Josons of Nueva Ecija are fielding clan members to assert their political might in their respective territories. However, new faces are trying to crush the wall built by these political empires.

Ilocos provinces

Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson honored his word by not seeking any elective position in the province. He, however, endorsed several family members, including his wife and their son, to elective positions in Ilocos Sur.

Singson fielded his wife Evelyn and their son Ronald as candidates for provincial board members.

Other Singsons running in the May 14 elections are Chavit's younger brother Jeremias for vice governor, his younger sister Germelina Singson Goulart for city councilor, and his niece, Eva Marie Singson Medina for her third term as Vigan mayor.

The highly anticipated gubernatorial fight between the protégés of Chavit and his estranged cousin, former Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson, would not happen when Eric did not field any aspirant.

His candidate and brother-in-law, former Narvacan Mayor Edgardo Zaragoza, would instead run for board member.

The unexpected move bolstered earlier reports of a reconciliation talk between the estranged cousins.

Eric declined to comment further but admitted that his move was part of a political healing process in the province.

The governor's trusted man, Vice Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano, will run for governor, replacing Singson who preferred to retire from politics.

Savellano will face lawyer Benjamin Baterina (PDP), younger brother of Ilocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Baterina; Roque Sison (independent), younger brother of Communist Party of the Philippines founding chair Jose Ma. Sison; and Romeo Hidalgo (Rizalista Party).

Eric Singson will seek to regain his former congressional seat against former Sta. Cruz Mayor Virgilio Valle.

Eric's wife, incumbent Rep. Grace Singson, will try to regain the Candon mayoral post against the incumbent, Ramon Balbin.

In Ilocos Norte, Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr., his sister Rep. Imee Marcos (second district) and Rep. Rodolfo Fariñas (first district) did not file their candidacies during the Feb. 28 deadline.

Reports said their known supporters have filed their candidacies.

Political observers said the Marcoses and Fariñas would later run as substitute candidates.

Only former Rep. Roque Ablan Jr. had filed his candidacy for first district congressman.

Pangasinan, La Union

Reelectionist Gov. Victor Agbayani will face Pangasinan Rep. Teodoro Cruz in the gubernatorial race in vote-rich Pangasinan.

Agbayani will run under Lakas-NUCD, while Cruz will run under LDP.

Agbayani, who earlier announced he was running as independent, almost lost the Lakas party nomination when former President Fidel V. Ramos strongly endorsed the bid of former Gov. Rafael Colet to President Macapagal-Arroyo to be the party's candidate.

Colet, however, withdrew from the race, apparently disgruntled over the selection process of official party candidates.

Only two congressmen, Rep. Generoso Tulagan (third district) and Rep. Ranjit Shahani (sixth district), are running for reelection.

Former Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. and businessman Mark Cojuangco of the fourth and fifth districts, respectively, will not run unopposed after all.

Cojuangco, eldest son of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, is being challenged by Bonifacio Gandia, Samuel Gabot and former Lakas deputy secretary general Raul Lambino.

Lambino said he was fighting the young Cojuangco to give the fifth district residents a "choice between a non-Pangasinense and a native son."

"Cojuangco can give all material things to the Pangasinenses, but I believe that not all our province mates can be bought and are intelligent enough to vote for the one who can represent them better," Lambino said.

After Rep. Benjamin Lim withdrew his reelection bid in favor of De Venecia, everyone thought the former Speaker would run unopposed.

De Venecia would face three candidates. But except for former Dagupan City Councilor Fred Quinto, the two other candidates are said to be token ones.

The hotly contested seat is in the third district where reelectionist Tulagan is facing Board Members MacArthur Samson Jr. and Angel Baniqued, Calasiao Mayor Felipe de Vera and two others.

In the sixth district, Shahani will face former Rep. Conrado Estrella III. Shahani was accompanied by his mother, former Sen. Leticia Shahani, when he filed his candidacy.

In the first district vacated by former representative and now Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, the race will be among Board Members Arthur Celeste and Francisco Baraan III and former Batasang Pambansa member Vicente Millora.

In the second district, Lingayen Mayor Ernesto Castañeda, Chief Supt. Amado Espino and Mariano Padlan will fight it out for the congressional seat.

Baguio, Benguet

The lone congressional seat in Baguio is a contest between Singson's lawyer Pablito Sanidad and Baguio Mayor Mauricio Domogan. A third candidate is Diosdado Ringor.

Three congressmen are among the city's six mayoral candidates.

They are incumbent Rep. Bernardo Vergara, former Rep. Honorato Aquino and former Youth Rep. Edgar Avila. Vice Mayor Daniel Fariñas, Councilor Roberto Ortega and Felipe Ramos.

In Benguet, Rep. Ronald Cosalan (Lakas-NUCD-UMDP) and Samuel Dangwa (Reporma-Lapiang Manggagawa) will fight for the province's lone congressional seat with mining law-

SINGSONS, JOSONS/ p.16

Davao City poll drive: It's all in the family

By JOWEL F. CANUDAY
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—It's all in the family.

There may be fewer candidates for elective posts here this year, but a number of them belong to the same family.

In the mayoral race, Representative and former three-term mayor Rodrigo Duterte of the newly founded Hugpong sa mga Tawong Lungsod-PDP Laban, is facing incumbent Mayor Benjamin de Guzman (Alyansa sa Katawhan sa Dabaw-People Power Coalition), a former Pagcor employee Alfonso Celma and Duterte's estranged younger sister Jocelyn (Independent).

De Guzman was Duterte's city administrator from 1988 to 1995 and vice mayor from 1995 to 1998.

Jocelyn, who has a long-standing feud with Duterte over family matters, insisted she is not running to spite her brother or help his political enemies win the elections.

"I think I'm old enough to make my own decisions. This is a political decision, not a personal one," she told reporters after filing her candidacy at the Commission on Elections at 11:55 p.m. Wednesday.

Duterte's ex-wife Elizabeth is also running for councilor (Ind.) in the first district.

In the congressional race, former Rep. Prospero Nograles is running in the city's first district while his younger brother Gerry is running in the second district.

Also in the second district, Vincent Garcia, son of three-term Rep. Manuel Garcia, is aiming for the seat his father is vacating.

Pitted with Nograles and Garcia is three-term councilor Nenita Orcullo whose brother, Alex Roldan and brother-in-law Beethoven Orcullo, are running for councilor. The Orcullos and Roldan are running under Duterte's Hugpong-PDP. Businessman Vicente Pichon (Ind.) is also running for representative in the second district while his son Anthony, is running for councilor.

Three-term councilor Cornelio Reta Jr. fielded his wife, Susan Isabel, to run for the seat he is vacating.

In the third congressional district, reelectionist Rep. Ruy Elias Lopez, will be facing his uncle, Jose Lopez.

Former city councilor Maybelle Frances Robillo (Alyansa-PPC) is facing her brother-in-law, businessman Oscar Robillo (Ind.), for councilor while three-term councilor Adoracion Paz Mata is campaigning for her daughter Teresita Mata-Marañon.

City Councilor Marlene Librado gave up her last bid for reelection in favor of the candidacy of her 27-year old daughter Angela, a lawyer at the Public Attorney's Office. The younger Librado is the official candidate of Bayan Muna and guest candidate of Hugpong-PDP. Records at the Comelec showed this year's election has fewer candidates than in 1998. Only 86 candidates are running for the 26-member city council compared to 189 in 1998.

Also, only four candidates are vying for mayor, compared with seven in 1998.

Pacificador running for gov

By HAZEL P. VILLA
PDI Visayas Bureau

PACIFICADOR

JARQUE

SAN JOSE, Antique–Former Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador is running for governor under the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, the party of his close ally, the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

He filed his certificate of candidacy at the Commission on Elections provincial office about 8 p.m. on Wednesday.

Pacificador, who is facing murder charges for the 1986 killing of political rival Gov. Evelio Javier, was able to get out from jail after the court granted his request for a medical check-up.

In Bacolod City, retired Brig. Gen. Raymundo Jarque, former National Democratic Front consultant, filed his candidacy as an independent candidate for vice governor of Negros Occidental.

Jarque said he decided to run because he wanted to serve the Negrenses.

Jarque was commander of the Army's Negros Island Command from 1989 to 1992. He joined the communist New People's Army in 1995 in disgust over what he called trumped-up charges filed against him for theft of prawns by businessman Magdaleno Peña in 1991.

The Sandiganbayan acquitted him of the charges in 1997, prompting him to resurface and become a consultant of the communist-led NDF in the peace process.

About 50 supporters from five barangays here waited for Pacificador around 7:30 p.m. at the Comelec office. They carried lighted candles and broke into applause upon seeing him.

Pacificador presented a certificate of nomination signed by Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., KBL president.

"You have been selected because of your record of loyalty to the precepts and ideology central to the KBL party. We are confident that you will continue in that tradition during and after the May 2001 elections," wrote Marcos Jr. in a letter dated Feb. 20.

Pacificador is the lone candidate of KBL in Antique after Belison Mayor Vicente Piccio backed out as his running mate because he had already filed his candidacy on Feb. 8 as an independent candidate for board member.

"I (have) made a commitment to my supporters to run for board member even before Turing (Pacificador) offered me to run as running-mate. I cannot change that commitment," said Piccio, provincial chair of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines.

Pacificador's opponents in the gubernatorial race are Senate Legislative Liaison Officer Sally Zaldivar-Perez of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino and incumbent Vice Gov. Damian Marfil of Reporma.

Zaldivar-Perez is a scion of the Zaldivar clan of Antique, a Javier ally and long-time political enemy of Pacificador. She lost two nephews and two cousins in the 1984 Pangpang encounter believed to be instigated by Pacificador.

But a regional trial court had acquitted the former assemblyman in the killing of seven supporters of Javier in Sibalom town, saying the prosecution failed to establish conspiracy between Pacificador and his security men to kill Javier's supporters.

The acquittal firmed up Pacificador's decision to run for governor. But he said he would withdraw if he could not go out on bail in the Javier murder case.

"It would be useless to campaign if I am still behind bars," he told a press conference Wednesday at Barangay Bornok, Hamtic.

Pacificador has been moving around since Feb. 22 when Executive Judge Nery G. Duremdes granted him permission on Feb. 21 to leave for the Philippine Heart Center in Manila for his regular medical check-up.

Pacificador filed a "very urgent motion" before Duremdes on Feb. 19 and flew to Manila on Feb. 22 via Iloilo City. He was accompanied by prison guard Rodney Santiago. He arrived in Antique on Feb. 27.

The court ordered Pacificador to return to the provincial jail at the Binirayan Hills by March 3. *With a report from Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Body of missing Taiwanese student found off Antique

ILOILO CITY—The body of a Taiwanese student was found about 30 miles off the coast of Anini-y, Antique, on Feb. 26, 14 days after she was reported missing on Boracay Island.

Gloria Chang's body was retrieved around 7 a.m. by a fisherman identified as Jonathan Acut, according to Lt. Col. Charlie Uy, head of the Boracay Search and Rescue 24th Reserve Airlift and Tactical Support Group of the Philippine Air Force.

It was already in an advanced state of decomposition, he added.

Chang was reported missing on Valentine's Day after her kayak was swept toward the open sea from Boracay's white-sand beach.

An employee of Fravelle Fishing Corp. found the kayak on Feb. 18 off Calandagan Island, southwest of Palawan.

Walton Chang, Gloria's father, went to Anini-y from Manila via Iloilo City on Tuesday morning to identify the body.

"Walton positively identified the body of his daughter through her hair and dentures. She still had on her the blue swimsuit, white shorts and goggles," said Uy, who accompanied Walton.

The body was brought to the Somo Memorial Homes Inc. on Delgado Street here on Tuesday, with the elder Chang, together with his brother Jack and four other Taiwanese companions, keeping vigil.

Since the Changs are Buddhists, Uy said the body would be cremated in Manila after papers covering the air transport of the body are issued.

Hazel P. Villa, PDI Visayas Bureau

Another eaglet hatched

MALAYBALAY CITY—A Philippine Eagle hatched its fifth eaglet early Tuesday in the forest of Barangay Dalwangan here.

Felix Mirasol Jr., superintendent of the Mt. Kitanglad Protected Area, said the same eagle hatched its fourth sometime in 1998.

All four previous eaglets were hatched in the same place, Mirasol said.

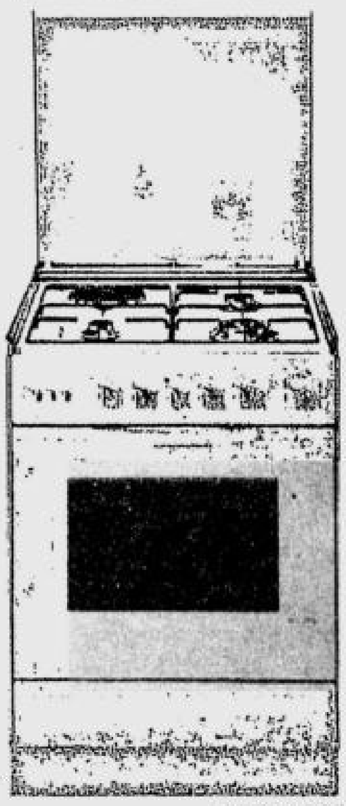
He said his field personnel were guarding the area against intruders who might harm or capture the birds.

The place where the eaglet was hatched is a popular destination of local and foreign bird watching enthusiasts.

Mirasol said he felt elated over the news. He attributed the eagle's successful breeding in its natural habitat to effective forest protection.

A Philippine Eagle's breeding cycle is once every three years and it lays only one egg at a time. An egg hatches after 56-58 days, Mirasol said.

Deforestation has significantly reduced the number of Philippine Eagles in recent years. Conservation groups, like the Philippine Eagle Foundation, has resorted to captive breeding to save the endangered species, the country's national symbol. *H. Marcos C. Mordeno, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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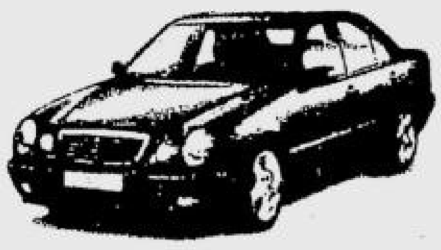
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Sulu, 5 Basilan towns 'hot spots'

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The Commission on Elections in Western Mindanao has placed the entire Sulu province and five towns of Basilan under its control for being election hot spots.

The Basilan towns are Maluso, Lantawan, Sumisip, Tipo-Tipo and Tuburan.

Lawyer Helen Aguila-Flores, Comelec regional director, said the poll body's list of hot spots was based on the peace and order assessment of military and police authorities.

Aside from Sulu and the Basilan towns, Sibuco town in Zamboanga del Norte and Tungawan, Payao and Labangan towns in Zamboanga del Sur were placed under Comelec control.

"We based it on the present turn of events as well as the reported presence of lawless elements in the said areas," Flores said.

The Comelec requested Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, Southern Command chief, to augment military forces in Sulu as soldiers based there were tasked to run after the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Flores also urged local candidates in Sulu to raise their concerns over the feared "utilization" of Moro National Liberation Front members integrated into the military who are now in Sulu, during the May 14 polls.

She said only the Southcom and the Comelec central office can act on the complaint.

Some candidates in Sulu expressed apprehension over the presence of the integrees who, they said, might side with Yusuof Jikiri, MNLF chief of staff in Sulu.

Jikiri is running for the gubernatorial post in the elections.

In Cotabato City, Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines president and Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo has issued guidelines to voters in the archdiocese to guide them in the May national and local elections.

In a statement, Quevedo urged them to vote according to an informed, mature and right conscience based on the following lines: "The voter has to vote wisely, responsibly, intelligently and honestly.

He reiterated a long-standing policy of the Catholic Church that it will not endorse or support any candidate for public office.

Quevedo stressed that "there is simply no Catholic vote, adding that "any Catholic may vote for candidates of his or her choice."

To guide voters in exercising their "precious" right of suffrage, Quevedo said every voter must consider the honesty, moral character, competence, industry, track record and issues that the candidate espouses.

Popularity and "winnability" should not be the only criteria in electing people to the government, he said.

While the Church does not endorse candidates, it will play an active role in the polls through voters' education from the dioceses to the parishes, he said.

Church leaders, priests, nuns and lay people will also actively campaign for HOPE (honest, orderly and peaceful elections), he added. *Julie Alipala-Inot and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

SUNDAY SALE GENE BOYD LUMAWAG

Religious items sold inside the compound of the San Pedro church in Davao City provides a colorful sight for Sunday churchgoers but not much income for the vendors.

Iloilo gov stops strip-search

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Gov. Arthur Defensor has exempted women journalists from the compulsory strip-search of women visitors at the Iloilo Rehabilitation Center (IRC).

"Reporters who conduct interviews will instead be escorted by guards inside the jail premises," he said.

The reporters, however, are required to submit a written request for an interview to the warden or the officer of the day.

The order came after IRC guards subjected INQUIRER correspondent Ma. Diosa Labiste to a strip-search before she was allowed to interview Iloilo's lone political detainee, Reynaldo Bocala.

Bocala, the alleged deputy secretary of the Panay regional committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines, was then holding a fast in sympathy with political prisoners on nationwide hunger strike.

Labiste, who was accompanied by a female human rights worker, had shown her press card. Her bag was inspected and she had volunteered to be frisked.

But the guards refused to allow her to interview Bocala unless she subjected herself to a strip-search.

Labiste and her companion were taken to a private cubicle where a lone female guard told them to raise their shirts and lower their pants and underwear, and to squat for a few seconds.

The incident drew indignation from local media groups led by the Iloilo Press Club and the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines in Iloilo.

They urged the provincial government to adopt security measures that do not violate a person's dignity.

Defensor said he had already ordered the provincial attorney's office to conduct a "comprehensive and exhaustive" investigation of the incident.

"I want to find out if the jail guards were at fault or unreasonable, and if we could modify or correct the standing policy," he said.

61 bolt prison in Agusan

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur—Sixty-one inmates bolted the provincial jail here on a rainy Wednesday night.

Fourteen of them were recaptured, while two others were killed while allegedly resisting arrest.

For five days, the inmates, reportedly led by suspected New People's Army rebel Noel "Ka Masoy" Labial, dug a 15-meter hole at the jail's comfort room, which is adjacent to the main gate.

The inmates stacked the soil under their beds without being noticed by the nine guards.

Ciriaco Mandanggit, assistant warden, told radio station dxDA that a routine zoning inspection of the cells was being conducted only once a week. This explained how the inmates were able to create the hole without being noticed.

Around 10 p.m. Wednesday, the inmates escaped.

Some of them ran to the hinterland. Six others took the national highway to hitch a ride, but they flagged down the service vehicle of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

Arrested were Rolando Galgo, Leonardo Gener, Conrado Olabedez and Allan Mahinay.

Two other escapees, Rolando Mancia and Mario Libres, were shot dead.

The escapees are facing robbery, rape and murder charges.

Guards and members of the Police Provincial Mobile Group immediately launched a manhunt, resulting in the arrest of 10 prisoners in Barangay Hubang here yesterday. Hubang is just three kilometers from the national highway.

Also arrested were Rolly Morgadez, Audefox Ultado, Juanito Timbal, Bernaldo Peraper, Mario Batisting, Rolando Loayon, Rosendo Tawide, Rufil Rivera, Eliseo Felipe and Arnel Perez.

Forty-five other inmates remain at large. *Chris V. Panganiban, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Singsons, Josons lead local battles

(From page 14)

yer Agapito Bolislis (independent) playing the spoiler.

Reelectionist Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas (NPC) will face Vice Gov. Robert Tinda-an of Lakas and Bedia Guznian of Reporma-LM.

Isabela

Independent candidate Grace Padaca, a polio-stricken former broadcaster in Cagayan Valley, will face Cauayan Mayor Faustino Dy III in the congressional race in the third district of Isabela.

Padaca's bid is reportedly supported by Catholic organizations in the province.

Dy, a member of the powerful Dy political clan of Isabela and a three-term Cauayan mayor, will run under the NPC-Lakas coalition.

Incumbent Rep. Ramon Reyes decided not to seek reelection due to financial constraints. He will run for mayor in Alicia town where he served for three terms before he ran and won for congressman in 1998.

Padaca popularized the three-hour morning program "Sa Totoo Lang" and anchored Bombo Radyo's "Bombo Hanay Bigtime" where she discussed current issues. She gained popularity in Cagayan Valley after she was jailed for a libel case in October 1993. The case was dismissed later.

In the second district, two lawyers will slug it out for the congressional post to be vacated by Rep. Faustino Dy Jr., who is running for governor. They are Vice Gov. Edwin Uy of NPC-Lakas and Board Member Simplicio Domingo II of LDP.

In the first district, former Rep. Rodolfo Albano Jr. will try to regain the post he yielded to his son Rep. Rodolfo Albano III. The younger Albano will be a party list candidate.

Aurora Singson-Tabangay, daughter of the late Isabela Gov. Melanio Singson, will challenge the elder Albano for the congressional seat.

The fourth district seat to be vacated by Rep. Heherson Alvarez will be contested by Board Member Giorgidi Aggabao of NPC-Lakas and former Rep. Antonio Abaya.

Pampanga

Reelectionist Gov. Manuel Lapid and the President's son Juan Miguel Arroyo, who is running for vice governor, lead the candidates of the ruling Lakas party in Pampanga.

The dominant opposition group, on the other hand, has resurrected the Buklod-Kapampangan led by Bacolor Mayor Ananias Canlas Jr. and actor Roi Vinzon as gubernatorial and vice gubernatorial candidates.

The Partido ng Masang Pilipino fielded Marcelino Manalansan and Allan Villanueva for governor and vice governor. An independent candidate, Jose Montemayor Jr., also filed his candidacy for governor.

Canlas, an original NPC member, was recently proclaimed by his colleagues in the opposition as the NPC's gubernatorial candidate in Pampanga.

However, the NPC national directorate withheld his nomination and decided not to field candidates for the gubernatorial and vice gubernatorial posts.

Instead of opposing Lakas-NUCD, the NPC entered into an alliance with the ruling party for provincial and congressional posts in Pampanga.

Three of Pampanga's incumbent congressmen belong to the NPC. They are Rep. Francis Nepomuceno (first district), Rep. Zenaida Cruz-Ducut (second district) and Rep. Juan Pablo Bondoc (fourth district).

Nepomuceno and Ducut's reelection bids are being contested by Lakas candidates who obtained the ruling party's nomination despite the Lakas-NPC coalition in the province.

Nepomuceno will run against Angeles City Councilor Willie Rivera while Ducut will be challenged by Emigdio Lingad III.

In Pampanga's third district, Rep. Oscar Rodriguez of Lakas-NUCD is being challenged by Board Member Rosve Henson of the Buklod-Kapampangan-NPC.

The third candidate for the congressional post is Dr. Eric Domingo, son of Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo.

Lubao Mayor Lilia Pineda, wife of suspected jueteng financier Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, will run for board member of Pampanga's second district. Their son, Dennis, will run for Lubao mayor.

Basketball coach Joseller "Yeng" Guiao, son of the late Pampanga Gov. Bren Guiao, will run for board member of Pampanga's first district. Guiao ran and lost for Pampanga vice governor in 1998.

Two suspected "jueteng" operators—Melchor Caluag, alias Ngngo, and Mario Garcia, alias Marga—will run for councilor in San Fernando City.

Caluag will run as independent while Garcia will run under Lakas.

Olongapo, Zambales

A new breed of politicians led by a homegrown educator-TV personality, offering "new politics based on faith," are challenging the seasoned politicians in Olongapo, known as "Gordon Country."

Edgar Geniza, who runs the family-owned Aura Mondrian College, the first local educational institution to locate at Subic Bay Freeport, and hosts a news magazine program in the local cable TV community channel, will face reelectionist Mayor Katherine Gordon of the Nacionalista Party-Lakas-People Power Coalition.

"I promise our people good governance. Olongapeños will never go wrong with this (Gordon's) team. Since this is my last term, I will do whatever is best for the people," Gordon said.

In Zambales, Rep. Antonio Magsaysay Diaz of the second district will face his first cousin, incumbent Gov. Vicente Magsaysay in the gubernatorial race.

Vice Gov. Cheryl Deloso, considered a darkhorse, will be the third candidate for Zambales' top post. A fourth gubernatorial candidate, Antonio Victoriano Diaz, who is expected to give Representative Diaz problem as they have similar names.

Former Executive Secretary Ruben Torres will also face a cousin, former Gov. Amor Deloso, in the battle for the congressional seat that would be vacated by Diaz.

Diaz and Torres are running under the NPC while Magsaysay is running under Lakas and Deloso under PPC-Reporma.

Joining Torres and Deloso in the congressional race are former Rep. Pacita Gonzales and businessman Philip Camara, both of Lakas. A fourth candidate is Board Member Fred Edano.

Nueva Ecija

In Nueva Ecija, the Joson political clan again dominated the province's race for major elective posts after four members of the prominent clan filed their respective candidacies.

Three-term Nueva Ecija congressman and presidential cousin Pacifico Fajardo is contesting the reelection bid of Gov. Tomas Joson III.

Fajardo's wife, Leonora, who is mayor of Palayan City, is running against the eldest son of Joson, Edward Thomas, for representative of the third district of the province.

The Fajardos are running under Lakas-NUCD while the Josons are running under the Bagong Lakas ng Nueva Ecija (Balane) which has a standing coalition with the Nationalist People's Coalition.

Governor Joson is the titular head of Balane, which was founded more than 15 years ago by his late father, Eduardo, who ruled the province for three decades.

Fajardo, a cousin of President Macapagal-Arroyo, is the only congressman in Nueva Ecija who has completed three terms. Holding degrees in law, commerce, and business administration, he hopes to duplicate his feat as a "giant killer" when he defeated then Rep. Hermogenes Concepcion, a retired Supreme Court justice, in 1992.

Joson appeared undaunted by Fajardo's challenge. He said he is also determined to bring to victory his eldest son's first attempt at politics and the re-election bid of his brother, Eduardo IV, for vice governor of the province.

The other candidates for the post being contested by the young Joson and Mayor Fajardo are retired Air Force colonel Reynaldo Garcia, lawyer Hernani Barrios and former Telecommunications Undersecretary Aurelio Umali.

In the first district, reelectionist Rep. Josefina Joson, sister-in-law of the governor, is being challenged by Cecilia Diaz, wife of former Rep. Renato Diaz.

In the second district, reelectionist Rep. Simeon Garcia Jr. of Balane is being challenged by former Rep. Eleuterio Violago of Lakas.

Reelectionist Rep. Julita Villareal of the fourth district has filed her candidacy under the Balane party against Mark Anthony Esquivel (Lakas-NUCD), lawyer Lamberto Magbitang (independent), Gregorio Manuel (Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino), and Julita's husband Raul (NPC). Raul is expected to withdraw from the race.

Bulacan

Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto, former Task Force Katapat head of the Department of Interior and Local Government, withdrew from the race for governor of Bulacan.

Maganto, who was earlier fielded by the Bulacan United Opposition against reelectionist Gov. Josefina de la Cruz of Lakas, endorsed the bid of businesswoman Luz Parungao-Viado who was supposed to be BUO's vice gubernatorial candidate.

Maganto's son Rommel will be the opposition's candidate for vice governor.

Reports said Maganto's withdrawal from the race was prompted by questions raised by Bulacan election officials on the non-inclusion of his name in the their voters' lists.

Maganto claimed he is a registered voter of Bustos town and voted there in 1998 when his son Rommel ran for mayor and lost for mayor.

Maganto threatened to file a case against the election officials for harassing him.

Sen. Blas Ople led LDP leaders in supporting the bid of his son, Raul, a former Bulacan board member, who is now running for congressman of the first district.

Other congressional candidates in Bulacan's third district are Mayor Lorna Silverio of San Rafael from Lakas, former San Rafael Mayor Jesus Viceo of the Puwersa ng Masa coalition and former Immigration Commissioner Bodjie Cabochan.

Former Vice Gov. Wilfrido Villarama, president of the Manila Times, will run for second district congressman under Aksyon Demokratiko. ***Reports from Leoncio Balbin Jr., Frank Cimatu, Vincent Cabreza, Desiree Caluza, Villamor Visaya Jr., Yolanda Fuertes, Kira Espino and Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Jun Malig, Tonette Orejas, Anselmo Roque, Carmela Reyes, Cesar Villa and Elizabeth Marcelo, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

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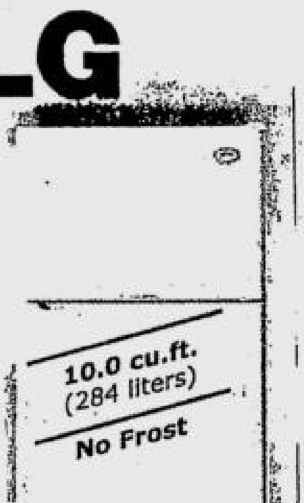
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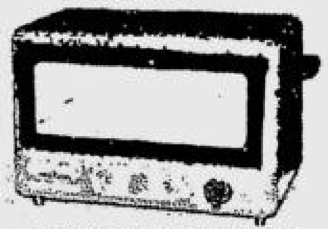
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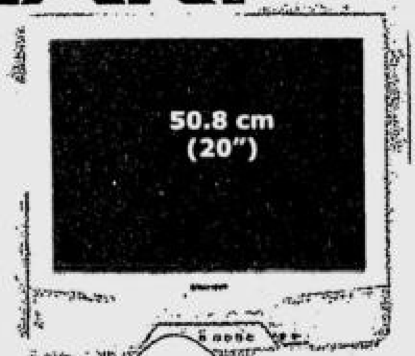
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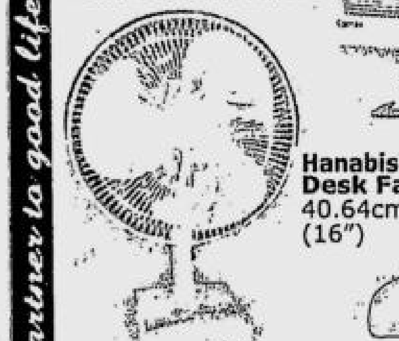
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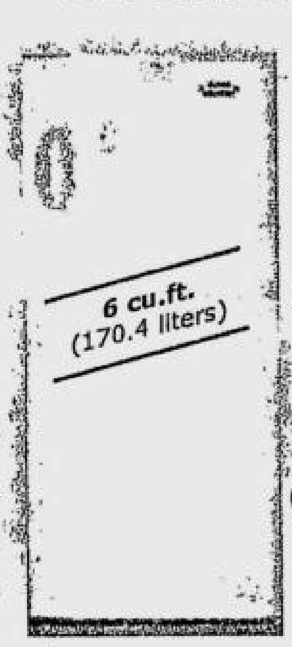
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GMA: Gov't to keep out of business deals

(From page A1)

Widespread outrage over corruption in the previous administration triggered the military-supported Edsa People Power II that ousted Estrada and installed then Vice President Macapagal as his replacement on Jan. 20.

Estrada is believed to have amassed millions in unexplained wealth during his 30-month administration.

Prosecutors say his cronies were given preferential treatment and that he also made money from deals brokered using his influence.

Among the most celebrated of government-backed deals during Estrada's time was the P30-billion acquisition by mid-sized Equitable Bank of the larger PCI Bank in 1999.

A total of P15 billion from the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System was used to create the country's third largest commercial bank.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez earlier disclosed that the former heads of the SSS and GSIS were willing to testify in court on the alleged millions that Estrada pocketed as commissions from the stock deals involving the two pension funds.

Witnesses in the Senate impeachment trial also testified that Estrada had used Equitable PCI Bank to launder millions of dirty money using secret accounts.

The bank was hit by massive withdrawals after the revelations. George Go, a close associate of Estrada, was subsequently forced to resign as bank chair.

No surprises

In her speech, Ms Macapagal also assured the businessmen that there would be "major microeconomic policy reversal or surprises."

She said her administration would be "above suspicion" and economic policies would be "less violative" of business rights.

She said the bureaucracy would be simplified to speed up the processing of business permits and licenses.

All transactions, particularly bidding, would be done in public so that "no special favors" would be given to any particular group.

She also urged businessmen to report government officials who asked for "special favors."

"Let me assure you that at the very top we have set the tone, and we want to clean up the government all the way from the top down to the last person who deals with you in obtaining your licenses," Ms Macapagal said.

She stressed that her government would work for price stability and lower interest rates.

To deal with the huge deficit left over from the Estrada administration, the government would strictly observe "fiscal prudence" and not compete with the private sector in the capital market.

Jitters

Businessmen, however, have been jittery lately following news reports that said Estrada was planning to retake the presidency.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index yesterday broke its 1,600-point support to end down 43.29 points, or 2.7 percent, at 1,570.20, adding to a 1.2 percent loss Wednesday. The index has given up 4.7 percent since Monday.

"Estrada's comments may have spurred some jitters," said A&A Securities analyst Don Malabanan.

Total trading volume thinned to 588.9 million shares valued at P734.2 million from Wednesday's 987.5 million shares valued at P994.9 million.

Decliners led gainers 72 to 12, while 34 issues were unchanged.

Estrada told reporters he wanted to take the presidency back during a trip to Zamboanga City where he campaigned for the Puwersa ng Masa senatorial and local candidates.

Estrada has asked the Supreme Court to declare him the "President on leave" and Ms Macapagal as "acting President," insisting he never signed an official resignation letter.

According to observers, Estrada does not want to take back the presidency but mainly hopes to maintain presidential immunity from criminal prosecution.

Estrada is facing a host of charges, including bribery, graft and plunder, an offense punishable by death.

The Supreme Court is expected to issue its ruling on Ms Macapagal's assumption of the presidency at around March 13. *With reports from AFP and AP*

Been there . . .

(From page A1)

of Agriculture banned beef from 13 European countries. It recently ordered the re-export of those that had managed to reach the country despite the ban.

In humans, the disease is called the variant Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease (CJD). It is a fatal degenerative disease characterized by a long incubation period of 15 months to 30 years. The psychiatric symptoms include insomnia, loss of memory, and dementia before the victim lapses into a coma.

Even before the ban on European livestock and beef was imposed late last year, most meat importers, according to the Department of Agriculture, were getting their beef from the United States, Japan and Australia.

And beef sold in local markets comes mostly from livestock raised in Batangas and General Santos, according to the agriculture department.

Dayrit earlier this week tried to allay fears of Filipino consumers.

He said the possibility of someone contracting CJD because he had eaten beef sold in the local markets was remote. Local meats are safe because of the precautions taken by the Department of Agriculture, according to Dayrit.

The DOH has yet to receive a report that someone had contracted CJD in tne country.

But Dr. Eric Tayag, another DOH expert on communicable diseases, admitted that government hospitals had no equipment for determining the presence of CJD.

Despite the absence of DOH statistics on the dreaded disease, Tayag said this did not mean that no one in the country was afflicted with the disease.

He said CJD's symptoms were similar to those of other diseases, making it difficult to diagnose.

CJD's symptoms can be mistaken for that of Alzheimer's disease or other abnormalities of the nervous system, according to Tayag.

Is cow's milk safe?

Milk from all cows, whether they are from mad cow disease-stricken countries in Europe or from Batangas, are safe to drink, the health department said.

The health department gave the assurance yesterday following fears that people might contract CJD by drinking milk from cows infected with BSE.

Villalon said that several studies had showed that mad cow disease could not be transferred from a cow to her young through the milk it drinks.

In Davao City, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor rejected proposals to ban imported milk and other dairy following reports these came from contaminated sources.

Montemayor said the government should not be too "alarmist" in dealing with the mad cow disease. He said dairy products should first be studied whether these were contaminated.

Efren Nuestro, executive director of the National Meat Inspection Commission, on Wednesday urged a ban on imported dairy products amid fears that beef products infected with mad cow disease might have found their way into the local market.

Nuestro said milk products might pose a threat to public health as there was no way of knowing if the sources of these products had been contaminated.

Montemayor said he would order an inspection of imported milk, whether fresh or powdered, and other dairy products to check whether these had been contaminated.

He said the Bureau of Food and Drugs of the Department of Health should also inspect milk and dairy products to ensure the health and safety of consumers.

Montemayor eats Jollibee burger

Montemayor, his staff and the regional officials of the agriculture department, yesterday morning ate beef burgers at the Jollibee store on Bolton Street in Davao City to assure the public that beef products in the country were safe.

But agriculture undersecretary Ernesto Ordoñez did not touch his burger.

In Manila, fast-food giant Jollibee Foods Corp. assured the public that its hamburgers were safe, saying that it imports all its beef requirements from Australia and New Zealand.

Claro Certeza, Jollibee vice president for corporate affairs, said that the agriculture departments of both countries had certified that the beef imported by Jollibee from them were "examined and found, by antemortem and post-mortem veterinary inspection, to be free from disease and suitable for human consumption."

Certeza also claimed that the patties for the fast-food chain's hamburgers, like the Regular Yum, Champ, and Burger Steak, were ISO 9002 certified.

ISO 9002 is the global quality standard for manufacturing.

Jollibee did not say that its sales had been affected by the mad cow disease scare gripping the country.

McDonalds Philippines Corp. and Burger King denied that sales of their famous burgers had been affected.

Purefoods

But Purefoods-Hormel Co. and Monterey Foods Corp. expect their sales to go down in the first quarter.

Purefoods-Hormel, the meat-processing joint venture between the Ayala Group and US-based Hormel Co., said the 10 to 15-percent increase in sales that it had projected was no longer attainable.

Purefoods-Hormel Co. president Alejo Francisco said the company had anticipated the recurrence of the mad cow disease last year and had since been importing beef products from outside Europe.

The company imports 100 percent of its beef from Australia for its canned beef products and buffalo meat from Sri Lanka for its hotdogs and sausages.

"There is an overall scare of consumption of beef-based products, which is now strongly felt in the wet markets. Though we haven't been directly hit at the moment, we expect a slowdown in our sales this quarter," Alejo told the INQUIRER.

Last year, Purefoods-Hormel, the country's market leader in hotdog and corned beef products, posted between P5 billion and P5.5 billion in sales.

"Yes it has affected our sales like the others in the industry. It is still too early to say to what extent it has affected sales," Monterey Foods president Arthur Juan said.

In Cagayan de Oro City, agriculture officials said Northern Mindanao was free from mad cow disease.

Formalin-laced fish

It's not just imported beef and livestock products that the public should be wary of. Consumers should also be on the lookout for imported fishery products laced with large amounts of formalin, Pamalakaya, a militant group of fishermen, warned yesterday.

Pamalakaya said that imported fish contaminated with chemicals, particularly formalin, also posed a threat to the health of consumers.

Because of the threat, Pamalakaya and the party-list group Bayan Muna urged the Macapagal administration to cancel all agreements on the importation not only of beef but also of fish products.

Pamalakaya national chair Rodolfo Sambajon blamed disgraced former President Joseph Estrada and former Agriculture Secretary Edgardo Angara not just for the importation of meat contaminated with mad cow disease and foot and mouth disease but also of formalin-laced fishery products.

Pamalakaya said that on the first 16 months of the Estrada administration, the country imported more than 400 tons of assorted fish from the United States, Taiwan, Thailand, Japan, Germany and Indonesia at a cost of P60.9 billion. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza, Christine Gaylican and Agnes E. Donato in Manila; Jowel F. Canuday and Ayan C. Mellejor with a report from Ellen P. Red, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

PNP chief goes after 7 pro-Ping generals

(From page A1)

according to an airport security guard who tried to stop him.

Third, Lacson drew attention on Wednesday night by adding at least P10 million to his campaign kitty at a P10,000-per-plate dinner hosted by Chinese-Filipino businessmen.

For the businessmen, many of them former kidnap victims, P10,000 for a meal of soup, noodles, fried tofu stuffed with crab meat and fruits, yam and minced mushrooms, is a small price to pay for their freedom, which most of them credit to Lacson.

But in the case of the PNP officers facing investigation, the price of loyalty to their former chief may be higher: their jobs.

If the investigation prospers, a massive revamp is likely, according to police sources. Such a reshuffle would specifically affect various positions still being occupied by PNP officers closely identified with Lacson.

The possible revamp, however, is barred from being implemented under the Commission on Elections (Comelec) Election Ban.

The PNP officials were allegedly monitored—and some, even caught on camera—actively campaigning for Lacson.

Reportedly on instructions from Malacañang, Deputy Director General Leandro Mendoza, acting PNP chief, has ordered the investigation and tasked the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) to handle the documentation.

Campaigning cops?

A press statement released yesterday identified the officers assigned to various regional offices as Chief Supt. Jose Ayap, head of the PNP police regional office for Ilocos Region; Chief Supt. Tiburcio Fusillero, head of the PNP police regional office for Central Visayas; Chief Supt. Dominador Domingo, head of the PNP regional office for Western Mindanao; and Senior Supt. Gregorio Dolina, head of the PNP regional office for Southern Mindanao.

It also identified PNP officers assigned at Camp Crame as Traffic Management Group (TMG) director Chief Supt. Renato Paredes; Chief Superintendents Romeo Acop and his younger brother Reynaldo; Director Victor Batac; Senior Superintendents Caesar Mancao and Michael Ray Aquino and Diosdado Valeroso.

All are known allies of Lacson.

Of the officers, Aquino is the most visible. He has appeared several times in news footage, accompanying Lacson on his campaign sorties.

Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, CIDG chief, said his office would also direct the city police directors of Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur and Davao City to explain in writing why they actively participated in Lacson's campaign sorties.

Mendoza gave Gualberto a one-week deadline to submit the results of his inquiry.

"The PNP chief would like to determine on whose authority these police officers are acting," Gualberto told reporters.

Culpability

He said that the purpose of the investigation was to determine the criminal and administrative culpability of the PNP personnel for alleged violation of the Omnibus Election Code and existing PNP rules prohibiting personnel from engaging in partisan political activities.

Mendoza emphasized that the probe was a warning to other police officers against supporting any political candidates for the upcoming May 14 polls.

"The PNP chief has stressed that the PNP should remain apolitical at all times and use of the manpower and resources of the PNP is a grave violation of the Omnibus Election Code," Gualberto said.

According to reports reaching Camp Crame, the officers allegedly escorted Lacson during his campaign sorties, and even used the resources of the PNP—patrol cars, motorcycle cops and other vehicles issued to the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force in the provinces—for his campaign caravan.

At airport

Lacson himself left for the United States yesterday morning on a one-week leave from the campaign trail to visit relatives, according to his campaign headquarters.

At the airport, Lacson's police escort was accused of interceding for the ex-PNP chief when the latter was barred by a security guard from entering the passenger arrival area.

With the exception of those issued to diplomats, all official business (OB) passes—like the one Lacson was wearing at the Naia— have been ordered recalled by airport general manager Edgardo Manda.

"Although he was wearing an OB pass, Lacson was able to enter the arrival area upon the intercession of the escort," said the guard who had accosted Lacson.

According to the guard, the unidentified police escort pushed him aside when he stopped Lacson, and curtly told him: "Just talk to me."

Not aware?

It was learned that the Lacson's OB pass came from Danilo Almeda, chief of the Bureau of Immigration unit at the Naia, and that Lacson was seen entering the arrival area with Almeda.

"Just because they're powerful people they're allowed to circumvent the laws. If we, little people, do that, do you think we can get away with it? Of course not," a policeman said when he learned of the VIP treatment given to Lacson.

Almeda admitted giving the pass to Lacson but claimed that he only learned yesterday that the passes had been recalled.

He said that when he learned of the recall, he asked an assistant to turn the OB pass over to the pass control division in exchange for a stick-on pass.

The stick-on pass proved to be useless. Lacson did not have a need for it because he was leaving for Hong Kong a few minutes later from the departure terminal.

Lighter side

On Wednesday night, dressed in an elegant barong, Lacson was the recipient of the generosity of more than 1,000 Filipino-Chinese businessmen who sponsored the fundraising dinner at a seafood restaurant at the Century Park Sheraton Hotel in Manila.

But dinner grew cold for most of the guests, especially the women, who wanted to pose for pictures with Lacson, who obliged and hopped from one table to another.

"Ping Lacson was the one who rescued their children, their husbands, whatever, and he did not want to receive any gifts," said Henry Lim, owner of Sterling Paper.

"Right now, since he's running for senator, they organized something like this, which is voluntary," he added.

Lim said the businessmen were able to gather a large group mainly through telephone calls and word of mouth.

"These people look at General Lacson as a hero that they want the present police force to emulate. That's why there is this outpouring of support," Lim said.

According to the son of business mogul Lucio Tan, Lacson represents a change in the system.

"Most of us who are here believe that he can offer a change in the system. We see that in him and we hope that most politicians would be like him," said John Tan, 32, who heads Landcom Realty Corp.

"Everyone here could be a crime target, and we don't have to wait for that unfortunate time," he added.

Asked if his father was also supporting Lacson, the younger Tan said, "You better ask him *na lang*."

Promise to smile

In a speech interrupted constantly by loud applause, Lacson first thanked the cooks and waiters without whom, Lacson said, dinner would not have been served.

He reminded his supporters that he "never aspired to be a politician. What I've aspired for, is to be a statesman."

Lacson vowed to continue his campaign for peace and order if elected senator. He also expressed hope that the current PNP leadership would continue reforms that he began while he was at its helm.

He also promised to smile all the time, joking that he had not done so in 30 years.

"These days, I even go to sleep with a smile on my face," Lacson claimed, drawing the loudest applause and laughter from the crowd.

Resurgence

One of the organizers, who refused to be identified, observed that the local Chinese community wants Lacson to be elected because "the peace and order situation these days has not been good. There has been a resurgence of kidnappings already."

Alan Co, 28, was kidnapped in 1998 and held captive for more than a month by the "P50-million Gang," which was reported to be responsible for at least 15 kidnappings and the killing of businessman Willyson Ong in Valenzuela after his family failed to pay the ransom.

Co said he didn't have to pay ransom because Lacson rescued him.

"Lacson helps everybody. I am here to show my support," he said.

But Teresita Ang-See of the Citizen's Action Against Crime did not show up in the gathering. Former Interior Secretary Alfredo Lim, who is running for Manila mayor in the May election, was also absent.

Reelectionist Mayor Lito Atienza, however, was present to introduce Lacson to the crowd—even if he did not pay for his dinner.

"I was invited by a friend," he said.

Smiling indeed

In an interview after the dinner, Lacson said he was overwhelmed by the show of support from the Chinese businessmen.

"I never expected that," he said in Filipino.

"Most of these people have offered me reward money for rescuing their sons and daughters and other relatives from kidnappers. But I've always declined the money. Now, they are returning to me my support."

He gave the interview as he ate a very late dinner in another restaurant on Roxas Boulevard. Like most of the guests at the Sheraton, Lacson had hardly touched his P10,000-meal.

With that kind of money being raised for Lacson's Senate bid, he could well be on the way to being the "richest" candidate this election season. Which should keep the smile on his face—even while he is sleeping.

Wong revives case of missing ₱65M

(From page A1)

build a road. Where is the road)?"

Repeating his call for reforms in the Marine Corps' handling of public funds, Wong said in Taglish: "Let's stop this. Why do you tolerate these shabby officers?"

In barracks talk, the term "shabby" means corrupt.

Questionable practices

Documents indicate that questionable practices in the corps, including the lack of public bidding, "fabrication of documents," and splitting of purchase orders and work orders, have been noted.

A ranking military officer said the Navy's ethical standards office was reviewing documents on the missing funds because Ruiz was cleared under supposedly questionable circumstances early in 1999.

"It appeared to be a whitewash," said the officer who asked not to be named. "The case was dropped, and I guess they were hoping it will be forgotten."

The implication of Ruiz brings to four the number of former Marine commandants who have been linked to the alleged irregularities that Wong had wanted to stop.

Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa, now commandant of the Armed Forces' Joint Command and Staff College, was linked to the alleged irregular purchase of P3.8 million worth of Kevlar helmets.

The names of Major Generals Percival Subala and Librado Ladia, retired and incumbent commandants, respectively, surfaced in the case of 72 missing HK-MP5 assault rifles worth P7.2 million.

Last Tuesday, the Marines released a videotape and transcripts of Wong's speech, wherein the name of former Marine commandant and now Sen. Rodolfo Biazon was mentioned in connection with the P10-million purchase of night vision goggles and related communications equipment.

Biazon has since denied involvement in any irregularity and said Wong apologized for his statements regarding the senator.

The AFP has submitted documents to the Office of the Ombudsman regarding financial irregularities in the military.

Special favors

Executive Secretary Renato de Villa yesterday said Espinosa's closeness with President Macapagal-Arroyo would not save him from possible sanctions in connection with the alleged irregular purchase of helmets.

"The President will not give special favors to anybody involved in the case," De Villa said in a radio interview.

He added: "Let the guilty ones answer for their crimes. We are serious in instituting reforms. We are trying to clean up the government.

"Be they our friends or not, if they are guilty, I'm sorry for them."

De Villa also said the top post at Manila's Executive and Cultural Office in Taipei would not be given to Espinosa if he were proven involved in the helmet transaction.

The President earlier announced that the Meco post was there for Espinosa's asking.

But De Villa said the offer was not "absolute."

"If he satisfies all the documentary requirements and he is found innocent in the investigation, then he will get the post. But if he is proven guilty, then that is another story," De Villa said.

Fighting fire

Former President Fidel Ramos said the conflict between Wong and Marine officers would not have gotten out of hand had the military hierarchy quickly stepped in to resolve it.

"Certainly this thing was blown out of hand," Ramos told reporters on his arrival yesterday from China, where he attended the Boao Forum for Asia.

"Not that the allegations are not serious," he added. "(But) there are ways to handle this thing, just like in fighting a fire. You don't just fight a fire with indiscriminate spraying of water."

Ramos, a former defense secretary and AFP vice chief of staff, also said Wong's expose on irregularities in the Marine Corps should have been investigated by the military chain of command.

"The military is still subject to legal systems—our penal code as well as the Articles of War which provide court martial for offenders against military law," he said.

Ramos said he saw nothing wrong with Wong speaking out. "It is the prerogative of a commander to talk about good behavior or the lack of it before anybody in the command, as a general rule," he said.

But he added: "It is also a shortcoming in management style for accusations to be made before the whole group, wherein certain ranking officers are accused of wrongdoing."

Power struggle

Rafael Mariano, chair of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, said the "power struggle" in the AFP had caused the Macapagal administration to lose focus on the people's agenda.

"The power struggle within the ranks of the fascist military is alarming because the Macapagal administration is very busy consolidating its ranks by giving favors," Mariano said.

"On the other hand," he said, it "is dumping more important concerns, like ending the widespread militarization and releasing political prisoners."

Mariano said the administration's "all-out peace" campaign was a "sham" as it could not even get the act of its own "reactionary armed forces" together.

Speaking at a forum in Quezon City, other peasant leaders from Central and Southern Luzon said military operations in the countryside had even escalated despite the President's pledge to pursue peace.

Rod Flores, chair of the Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon, said the AFP had tapped the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan, a splinter group of the New People's Army that had turned to banditry, to sow terror in Central Luzon.

"Consequently, the AFP and the (Philippine National Police) continue to harass peasant leaders and organizers on mere suspicion that they are NPA supporters," Flores said. *With reports from Armand N. Nocum and Andrea Trinidad-Echavez*

Abu Sayyaf mass grave discovered

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Government soldiers have dug up the remains of at least 19 suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits in Sulu.

Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, Southern Command spokesperson, said the military discovered the remains of the Abu Sayyaf members in several shallow graves in Patikul, Sulu.

On Wednesday morning, soldiers from the 4th Infantry Battalion and the 77th Infantry Battalion who were conducting patrol operations, stumbled upon the decomposing bodies of five suspected Abu Sayyaf members in Luba Hill, Patikul town.

On Tuesday, government soldiers also discovered the remains of two suspected Abu Sayyaf members in Barangay Kandiamak, also in Patikul. Four other bodies were found buried in Mt. Mungit, also in Patikul.

One of the bodies was identified through the identification card found inside his pants. He was Sakur Sajili, 18, a student in one of the colleges in Jolo. ***Jonathan F. Ma, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

'Luli' appointment hangs

By Dona Pazzibugan

SENIOR career diplomats yesterday expressed misgivings about the unprecedented manner Malacañang planned to have the President's daughter, Evangeline Lourdes "Luli" Arroyo, appointed as a foreign service officer.

This came after Malacañang announced that President Macapagal-Arroyo "absolutely" refused to sign the appointment papers of her only daughter.

Ms Macapagal was apparently concerned that she might be accused of nepotism and that a conflict of interest might arise in the future.

Instead, Malacañang announced that Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. would sign Arroyo's appointment papers "for and by the authority of the President."

Some officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs, however, were not comfortable with Malacañang's decision.

They pointed out that the Foreign Service Act explicitly stated that the President had the sole authority to appoint foreign service officers, who are groomed to be career diplomats.

"That's why the lawyers are looking into it (because) it will be a precedent," said one ranking DFA official said.

Another ranking official said Malacañang did not seek the DFA's legal opinion on the matter.

"I'm not sure if (the signing authority) can be delegated. I assume this matter has been studied by Malacañang lawyers and they may have come to that conclusion," Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin told reporters yesterday.

Guingona, however, appears to be unaware of the legal ramifications of his signing the appointment papers for the President's behalf.

"I have no objection. I'm willing to sign (Arroyo's appointment papers) because I believe there's no nepotism (involved)," he said when interviewed yesterday.

By way of explaining, he said Arroyo earned the title of being a foreign service officer through merit and not through her connections with the powers-that-be.

Only three persons—including Arroyo—passed the highly competitive foreign service exams administered last year. More than 3,000 initially applied, of which only 327 qualified for the oral and written exams.

Ms Macapagal signed the appointment papers of the two others who passed the exams—journalist Noel Novicio and DFA employee Myca Magnolia Maog—earlier this week.

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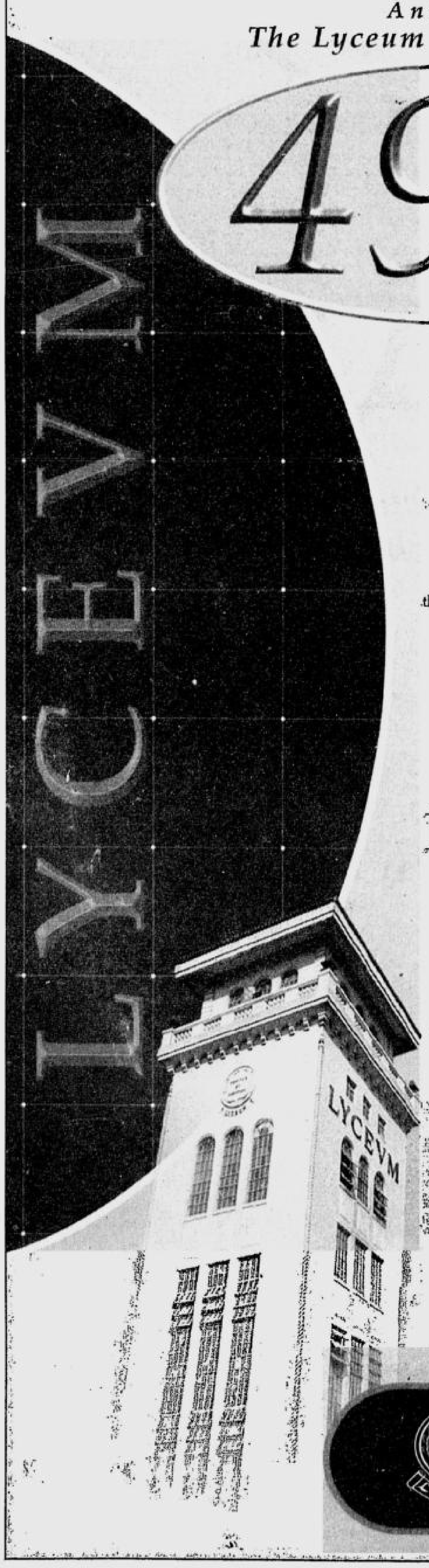

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Lyceum of the Philippines Campus Events

Monday-March 5, 2001	
2:00 pm	Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption
3:00 pm	"The Devil Flower" Premiere *A drama adaptation of Emigdio Alvarez Enriquez's novel*
Tuesday-March 6, 2001	
3:00 pm	Seminar: New Trends in Advertising *Speaker: Mr. Oscar Valenzuela*
4:00 pm	Browsing-Over of New Books in Public Finance and Economics
6:00 pm	"The Devil Flower"- a stage play
Wednesday-March 7, 2001	
9:00 am	Academic Contest
9:30 am	Information Technology in Education *Speaker: Dr. Leonida P. Africa*
1:00 pm	Employment Readiness: Key to Career Success
3:00 pm	Book Launching • Taxation of Financial Instruments and Financial Institutions in Selected Countries in the Asia Pacific Region *Dr. Angel Yoingco, author* • Customs Law Reviewer, Book 2. *Jose A. Fabia, author* • Reportage on the Social Economy of the World *Ernesto M. Valencia, author* • Handbook in Taxation *Dr. Victor Endriga, author*
4:00 pm	Use of Modern Technology in Crime Prevention *Speaker: Gen. Panfilo Lacson*
Thursday-March 8, 2001	
11:30 am	Floral Offering
11:45 am	Holy Mass
3:00 pm	Blessing and Inauguration of the Electronic Library
4:00 pm	Awards Convocation
7:00 pm	Miss Lyceum Pageant
Friday-March 9, 2001	
7:30 am	Pilgrimage to Tanauan, Batangas
Saturday-March 10, 2001	
8:00 am	ROTC Parade and Review/ Presentation of Sponsors
9:00 am	Intramurals Championship and Exhibition Games
9:00 am	Job Fair
6:00 pm	Alumni Homecoming
6:00 pm	Students' Night/Band Concert

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'WNC' Luzon meet blasts off today

THE Women's National Collegiate Athletic Association (WNCAA) will hold its first-ever Luzon Leg Basketball and Volleyball Championships today, March 2, at the UA Archi, Cinense Gym, University of Assumption-Pampanga in San Fernando.

The two-day event will be participated in by WNCAA member-schools from the National Capital Region, Holy Angels University, Wesleyan University of the Philippines in Cabanatuan City and the Bulacan State University.

The competition, which will be ushered in by a brief but colorful opening ceremony at 1:30 p.m. today, is divided into two categories: high school and college.

Supported by CAP, Inc. and LGR Athletic Wears and held in cooperation with the Philippine Sports Commission, the Luzon leg aims to make the upcoming 2001 WNCAA season truly national in scope.

Expected to grace the opening rites are WNCAA president Vivian Manila, UA president Rev. Msgr. Ricardo Jesus T. Serrano and other WNCAA officials and school officials. Rev. Msgr. Edgardo P. Pangan, UAP Executive VP, will declare the meet open.

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PBA TODAY

Shell seeks solo lead vs Tanduay

STANDINGS	W	L
San Miguel	4	2
Shell	4	2
Ginebra	4	2
Red Bull	4	2
Pop Cola	3	3
Purefoods	3	3
Sta. Lucia	2	4
Alaska	2	4
Mobiline	2	4
Tanduay	2	4

GAMES TODAY *(Philsports)*
5:15 p.m. – Shell vs Tanduay
7:30 p.m. – Purefoods vs Alaska

PARAS

STRANGE things have happened in the PBA All Filipino Cup that halfway through the eliminations, the supposedly strong teams are down and the presumably weak squads are on top.

Also, last year's worst-performing team, Shell Velocity, is lining itself up for the solo leadership when it takes on Tanduay Gold today at Philsports.

Even the Turbochargers' coach Perry Ronquillo is amazed over his team's sudden reversal of fortune, considering that they finished with the all-time franchise worst record of 9-24 last season.

Meanwhile, Purefoods guns for fourth win against Alaska Milk in the second game at 7:30 p.m. The Hotdogs fell to the Gin Kings, while the Aces downed Pop Cola in their previous games. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Van Exel spoils Bryant's return

DENVER—Nick Van Exel spoiled Kobe Bryant's return to the Los Angeles Lakers' lineup.

Van Exel hit a tiebreaking 3-pointer with 37 seconds remaining and iced the game with eight straight free throws as the Denver Nuggets overcame 38 points by Bryant for a 107-101 victory Wednesday night.

Complete results: Indiana 99, Milwaukee 86; Toronto 95, Atlanta 88; Charlotte 91, New Jersey 88; Minnesota 111, Detroit 100; Philadelphia 79, Miami 69; Houston 95, Chicago 78; Utah 101, Vancouver 83; Orlando 97, Phoenix 91; Sacramento 122, Golden State 101; Denver 107, L.A. Lakers 101. **AP**

Karting 1st leg Sunday

TO make this year's series a lot more exciting, the organizers of the Shell Super Karting Championships have added two more categories starting with the first leg at the Carmona Racing Circuit in Cavite on Sunday, March 4.

Focus of attention will be the Formula 125, a new event being sponsored by Demvel's Enterprises and open to top karters seeking entry to the Formula Super A class next year.

Among those who have already signified their intention to participate in the Demvels Formula 125 are Lee Bumgarner, Bert Neuhof and Juha Roiha.

The equally exciting cadet class will also now be divided into two categories: cadet 85cc and cadet 60cc.

Defending champion Tyson Sy will be the top favorite in the cadet class, along with perennial rivals Lorenzo Rijk, Mark Bumgarner, Maxine Ignacio and Dado Pena.

Sy is buoyed by his recent victory in the 6th PIKP-Erap Cup karting championship at the Quirino Grandstand last Dec. 28.

"We hope these two new categories will make this year's series a lot more exciting than the previous years," said project organizer Lot Tan of Carmona Circuit Phils.

Tan said five other categories will also be disputed in this nine part series sponsored by Shell and supported by Nokia Phils., Demvel's, Coca-Cola, Bridgestone, Eastway Racing Company and Match Box/Hot Wheels.

These five categories are Formula Super A, Intercon, FSL Light, FSL Heavy and team competition.

Interested participants can register through Rose Feria at the CCP office located at the Kilton Bldg., P. Binay cor. Borneo Sts., Makati City with tels. 817-2241 and 817-4988.

Pharma reinforces lineup; Osaka ready

THINGS are looking bright for PBL rookie team PharmaQuick.

In a no-nonsense bid to bounce back after failing to hurdle the eliminations in the just-concluded Challenge Cup, PharmaQuick bolstered its lineup with the acquisition of ex-pros Braulio Lim and Joel Co.

A former star from the University of the East, the 6-foot-3 Lim had uneventful seasons with Purefoods, Pop Cola and Alaska, while the sweet-shooting Co saw action for former MBA champions Manila Metrostars.

Sportsman-lawyer Jimmy Javier, PharmaQuick's team manager, said the presence of Lim and Co will provide maturity to a very promising team.

Rebounding demon Jan Alfad will also get solid help from 6-foot-6 Bob Allen and former Chowking defensive specialist Cesar Romero.

Jun Jabar and Jay Lapinid remain with the team.

Javier said the coaching staff headed by Bernie Fabiosa is intact. Bay Cristobal remains as assistant mentor.

PharmaQuick is owned by noted sportsman-businessman Sandy Javier, who also owns reigning MBA national champions San Juan Knights.

Meanwhile, Osaka Iridology, PBL's newest member, has confirmed participation in the upcoming Cebu Basketball League President's Cup set to unfold March 5 at the Cebu Coliseum.

Coach Franz Pumaren sees the tournament as a good tune-up for the Iridologists composed mostly of the De La Salle Green Archers core.

Much of the interest will be on the comeback of sweet-shooting BJ Manalo in this event sponsored by Thirsty, Nature's Spring, Adidas, Coca Cola, Sunsport, POW Designs, Carmen Piramide of BBC's Printshop, Y101 FM, Charlie @ Rhythms, Angel Radyo, Killer Bee, spirit FM, DYRF and Freeman.

"Well, Cebuanos will be privileged to see the comeback of Manalo after a long hiatus due to injury. I believe the team is much stronger now," said Osaka chief executive Jonathan Guardo, who is also the president of the CBL.

Guardo also confirmed the participation of local teams ML Kuarta Padala, Dazz Dishwashing Liquid, M. Lhuillier, Chariot Power Cabs and Guardo Shiatsu. Also invited were Cebu Gems and Montana Pawnshop.

The President's Cup will be aired over SBN Channel 6 starting March 5 at 9 p.m. *Dennis Eroa*

Veteran, Batangas bet show way in singles

VETERAN Hermie Castillo of D'Friendly and Batangas' Enock de Sagun tallied 415 and 378 pinfalls, respectively, to emerge as early singles frontrunners in the 27th national invitational duckpin bowling championships at The Marketplace Center in Mandaluyong City.

Castillo finished ahead of Chris Mendez (415), Rene Capulan (396), Peo Lopez (391), Bert Sales (390), Tony Huelva (389) and Vic Uy (387).

De Sagun paced Nora Certeza (368), Maa Aregla (353), Beth Manosca (353), Beth Manosca (353), Geena Gregorio (352) and Beng Ravago (339).

Senatorial candidate Noli de Castro graced the recent opening ceremony of the PHIDBC tourney sponsored by former Secretary Edgardo J. Angara with Col. Art Navarette and Ric Raagas as donors.

UDBA-RSN and BDBA-II BAT led the team competition while Ramir Moreno and Magdalena Eugenio showed the way in class C singles.

UDBA-BSN posted 1136 to pace UDBA-MTB (1121) and BDBA-BAT (1051) in the men's division while BDBA-II BAT carded 986 to move ahead of INCIRBA-CGA (955) and BIRDBA (949) in ladies' group.

Pasay derby on tonight

COCKFIGHT idol Patrick Antonio (Sagupaan Super Feeds) banners a tough field of more than 35 participants in a special 4-cock derby tonight at the Pasay City Cockpit.

The derby, hosted by Tony Lasala and Benjie Lim, starts at 7 p.m.

The event is a fitting follow-up to the special PCC 4-cocker last week which attracted 48 entries and won by lawyer Onofre Abella's Agilawin entry.

Up for grabs today is P300,000 in prizes. Entry fee is P10,000.

"We guarantee seven to eight fights per hour in every derby to avoid delays," said PCC pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano.

Meanwhile, regular hackfights are also held at the PCC every Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. For inquiries, please contact 843-1890, 843-1746 or 816-6750.

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BY MR. 999

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Race 2—1. Change for Keeps 2. Hingis 3. Modulo Queen

Race 3—1. Gimme A Ring 2. Aly Sam 3. Vigor 4. Something Best

Race 4—1. Palace Hero 2. Let Me Pass

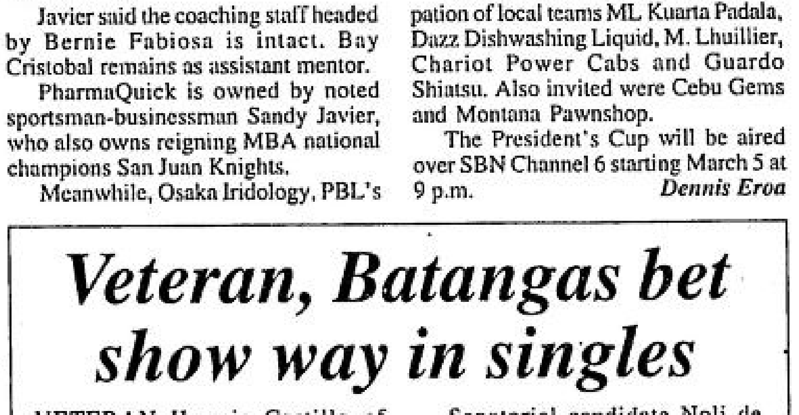
Race 5—1. Turbo Carera/Sweet Inspiration 2. Leverage Buyer/Full Blast 3. Go Johnny Go 4. Holy Toast

Race 6—1. En Carta 2. Royal Worship 3. Hacker 4. Uncle Zaam

Race 7—1. Kitty Bang Bang 2. Leading Light 3. Scholar Girl 4. Grand Prize

Race 8—1. Top Secret 2. Sunny Sky 3. As for Me

Race 9—1. Top Secret 2. Wings of Gold 3. Like A Prince 4. Cubano


CAGE CHAMPS

Members of the Xavier School Stallions pose with BAP chairman Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat II (right) and high school principal Ms Rosie Moscoso after winning the Tiong Lian basketball title via an 11-game sweep recently. Others in picture are Paul Chua, Sammy Young, Tyrone Tang, Chris Tiu, Denden Joyluto, Brian Go, Joseph Yeo, Joseph Chua, Raymond Lee, J. Yu, G. Noel, Edward Ongaigul and M. Tio. Not in picture is coach Moñ Amador.

McGwire OKs $30-M deal

NEW YORK—Mark McGwire and the St. Louis Cardinals have agreed to a two-year extension worth about $30 million, The Associated Press learned Wednesday. The new deal runs through 2003, the season McGwire could be approaching Hank Aaron's home-run record of 755. McGwire, 37, missed most of the second half of last season with a knee injury and had surgery during the offseason. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

Canlubang paces Southwoods by 16

PAL Interclub record in danger of getting equalled

BY AL S. MENDOZA
Sports Editor

CEBU CITY—Canlubang looked poised to equal a PAL Interclub record yesterday as it led CAP-Southwoods by 16 points going to today's last round at Cebu Country Club.

Luigi Yulo's charges from sugar-rich Canlubang could wrap up their 10th title today and, in so doing, would equal Bacolod's 10 Interclub crowns.

It was in 1972 at the now-gone Club Filipino de Cebu in the heart of the city that Bacolod scored its record 10th PAL Interclub title.

The resurrected Club Filipino de Cebu is located in nearby Danao.

The nine-time champion Canlubang manufactured 135 yesterday at Club Filipino de Cebu against the 134 of CAP-Southwoods as the promised rally from Southwoods failed to materialize.

Not even the arrival yesterday of Southwoods top honcho Bob Sobrepena helped the Woodsmen's cause any.

But Southwoods coach Bong Lopez said the battle isn't over yet.

"We are 16 down but if we play a fantastic round tomorrow , we still have an outside chance," said Lopez. "*Walang ayawan hanggat hindi tapos ang laban.*"

Southwoods' 134 at Club Filipino de Cebu was fantastic enough. In its Round 1 at Club Filipino de Cebu on Tuesday, Southwoods made only 112.

"Frankly, it's going to be tough," said Lopez. "But if we play good tomorrow at Cebu Country Club, who knows?"

In 1998 in Davao City, Southwoods was up by 11 over Luisita with one round left.

In the most bizarre collapse in the fabled tournament, Southwoods crumbled with a 115 to virtually hand the title to Luisita, whose final-day 128 made it the winner by 2 points.

Boyet Saragoza and Abe Rosal led Canlubang yesterday with identical 1-over-par 35 points at Club Filipino de Cebu, followed by Ronnie Torrecampo with 33 and Dave Hernandez with 32.

Canlubang totalled 400 to CAP-Southwoods' 134=384, with Luisita a far third with 130=378.

"We are a bit comfortable now but the job is not yet done," said Canlubang team captain Luigi Yulo. "With Juvic (Pagunsan) and Solomon (Gines) set to play tomorrow, we will just match with them (Southwoods). But we'll not let our guard down."

Angelo Que fired the day's best of 37 in topscoring for Southwoods in the five-to-play, four-to-count format that rewards 3 points to a birdie, 2 to a par and 1 to a bogey.

Juami Rocha had 34, Chucho Martinez 32 and either the 31s of Jun Jun Plana and Montito Garcia for Southwoods' 134.

Jay Bayron tied Que's 37 as the reigning Uratex Caddies champion continued to shine for Luisita, whose other scorers were Jinky Tuason with 34, Marvin Dumandan with 31 and Iggy Clavecilla with 28.

Cebu CC led Negros in the Founders Division by only 4 points. Riviera was at 315 or 11 points behind Cebu.

Pacesetting Apo Golf has three pursuers tied for second—Camp Evangelista, Club Filipino and Iligan—in the Sportswriters Division.

Apo shot 104 for 284 as against the 279s of Camp Evangelista, Club Filipino and Iligan.

Tom Garcia arrived yesterday afternoon and treated the Camp Evangelista bets to a sumptuous dinner in a bid to boost the morale of the boys, whose 97 yesterday was a big rally from their 84 in Round 2.

"I flew first to Manila and then caught the next available flight to Cebu just to be with my Camp Evangelista pals," said Garcia, a security agency mogul in Cagayan de Oro City.

San Juanico posted an 18-point margin over Iloilo in the Sportswriters Division.

Other scores:

Championship—Wack Wack 119=344, Del Monte 119=341, Alabang 107=286, Bacolod 84=260, Alta Vista 70=230, Lanang 59=226, Maharlika 68=217, Brookside 83=216, Sydney 54=198, Brotherhood 76=196, Greenhills 66=192, Xiamen 70=192, Vancouver 59=187, Japanese 69=173, Par Excellance 67=160, Moffett Field 63=160, Paga-San Jose 47=157, Victorias 39=145, Golfinos 50=135.

Founders—Pueblo de Oro 100=312, Forest Hills 113=303, Valley 100=294, John Hay 96=284, Manila Golf 90=282, Davao 86=255, Villamor 81=247, Mt.Malindang 66=229, Navy 84=237, Pamplona 76=225, Bay Area 36=171.

Sportswriters—Team L.A. 103=276, Crystal Spring 90=271, Intramuros 95=269, Leyte 98=265, Mabuhay 73=249, Capitol 78=241, Mercedes 89=233, Lumbia 77=231, Zamboanga 79=231, Paoay 93=220,Alliance 58=220, Fil-Am 87=210, Baguio 89=210, Guinhalaran 82=209, Cotabato 64=179, Going Bananas 52=171, Washington DC 46=157, Ridha Dirab 61=140, Seattle 52=137, Hawaii 53=124, Riyadh FGA 47=120

Friendship—S. Cotabato 59=231, UP Tee Jois 76=230, British Columbia 91=229, Pittsburg83224, Heritage 71=210, Rolling Hills 84=201, Skywest 69=166.

ANTHONY Fernando of Luisita makes a putt.
JESS YUSON

Silver anniversary

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

CONDOLENCE. My condolences to Sheila Coronel and Bobby Tiglao and to their respective relatives. Sheila has lost her mother and Bobby his wife, Racquel.

■

CEBU CITY—The PAL Interclub does not only reunite amateur golfers from across the nation. It also attracts virtually all the sports editors and grizzled scribbles of the major newspapers from Manila as well as the other major cities of the country.

Since its birth 53 years ago at Wack Wack in 1948, the PAL Interclub has not missed a single year.

It was almost cancelled twice or thrice. But the tournament survived the threats, mostly man-made like the pocket-size rebellion at Davao's Apo in 1981 and the economic downswing in the '80s.

Since 1977, I missed only one PAL Interclub—the 1983 edition in Cebu's Cebu Country Club. This is my 9th PAL Interclub in Cebu. Since this is my 24th appearance in the fabled event known as the national team golf championship, I am just one year shy of completing my 25th year of PAL Interclub coverage.

Ah, next year would be my silver anniversary. Indeed, how time flies really.

■

The Championship Division in the PAL Interclub is where the top guns of the tournament are grouped. Since Canlubang's Cinderella victory in 1977 at Club Filipino de Cebu, it became almost traditional that the chief contender for the crown was Canlubang. Reason: Canlubang loves nurturing warriors of note while at the same time nourishing greenhorns with potentials. Canlubang's main source of stars is Davao, whose wealth of parbusters is almost limitless.

That is what Luisita, Canlubang's perennial rival for the crown, is now trying to do: Rebuild a crew that has been overtaken by time.

"Give us two years and we will be back to battle for the crown again," said Iggy Clavecilla, Luisita's team captain.

Like Canlubang, Luisita has gone to Davao to unearth its own gems. This year, Luisita has mined Jay Bayron, the young winner of the last Uratex Caddies Championship at Capitol. Only 20 years old, Bayron joins fellow Davaoeño Louie Dacudao to the Luisita fold.

Southwoods has its own battery of stars, most of them though of the Spice Boys variety as they come from upper class families. The squad clinched its first PAL Interclub in 1999, when Canlubang and Luisita weren't around. Like a newly crowned world champion boxer who needs to successfully defend his crown to legitimize his grip of the title, Southwoods needs one more championship to authenticate its pedigree.

■

Thanks to Rolando P. Estabillo, Simoun Canton Jr., Jose "Joecal" Miraflor, Ma. Paz Mag-iba, Eugenio Labadan, Ma. Charyna Benavidez and Peter Langurayan of the PAL Publicity Committee for their untiring efforts to make our coverage of the PAL Interclub nice and easy. May your tribe increase.

Woods, Bjorn ahead

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Tiger Woods and Denmark's Thomas Bjorn shared the early first-round lead Thursday in the Dubai Desert Classic, shooting 8-under-par 64s on a still, warm day on the Arabian peninsula.

The lush fairways, true-rolling greens and the dry desert air left the 7,127-yard Majlis Course ripe for picking by the two Ryder Cup players, who both had bogey-free rounds. *AP*

2-1 FAVORITE

Tuñacao defense today

BY RECAH TRINIDAD

PHICHIT, Thailand—No more showboating. It will be pure, no-nonsense boxing, Malcolm Tunacao vowed, when he defends his World Boxing Council flyweight crown today against a small, boyish challenger whose name only his Thai countrymen could spell perfectly right.

The lean Filipino battler is a 2-1 favorite over Pongsaklek Wonjongkam, a junior flyweight (108 pounds) who had to be elevated as WBC No. 7 contender to qualify for the crown challenger.

Both fighters are 23 year old. Tunacao, 5-foot-6, enjoys a two-inch edge over the peppery Thai, a former kickboxing standout whose victims included nearly a dozen Filipino pugs.

The slug-out, to be staged in an open-air arena, has stirred this arid, sleepy province some 350 kilometers from Bangkok to life.

Unlike Tunacao, Wonjongkam did not have to wrestle with excess poundage to make the 112-limit, having been used to fight at 108 pounds.

Tunacao had to do some jogging after waking up over by three pounds yesterday to prepare for the afternoon weigh-in which he passed in one try. (See Bare Eye in Metro section).

Tunacao has gotten strict instructions to use his reach advantage and move a lot from Bukidnon-based matchmaker Leonel Lazarito, whose efforts led to Tunacao's successful crack at the crown last May.

It will be Tunacao's only 13th bout as a pro compared to the Thai title hopeful who has had 39 fights (37-2). But while Wonjongkam had fought as a kickboxer, Tunacao has had over 100 outings in the amateur ring where he lost no more than 10 fights.

Their contrasting styles could make for a classic clash. Tunacao is a thinking, sharp-shooting stylist while his opponent is a relentless plodder who loves to see his foes stay in the line of fire.

Both fighters are southpaws, a fact that has lent Tunacao extra encouragement. The Cebu-based world champ is known to have feasted on left-handed opponents.

It will be Tunacao's only second defense of the crown won over Thailand's Medgoen 3-K Battery in Udon Thani last May.

In his first defense against Japan's Celes Kobayashi in Tokyo in September, Tunacao was lucky to have earned a split draw decision.

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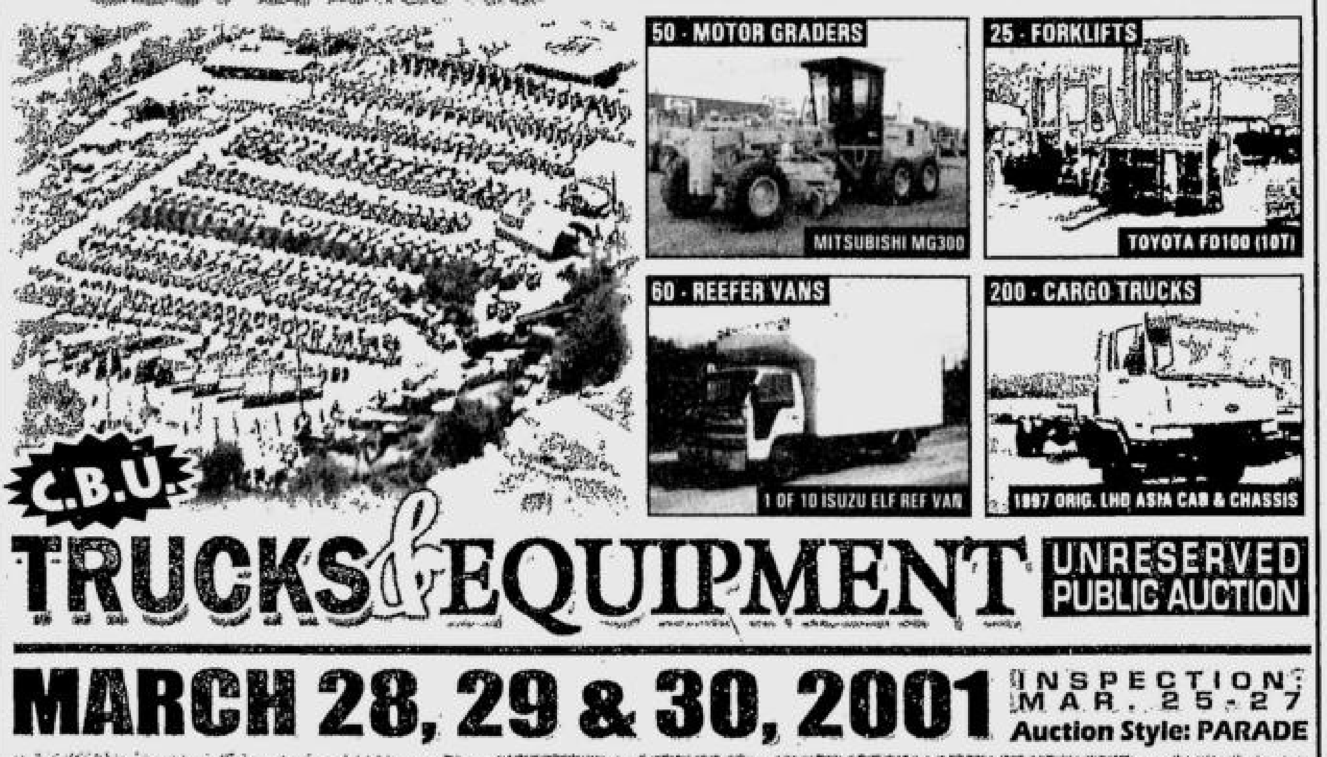

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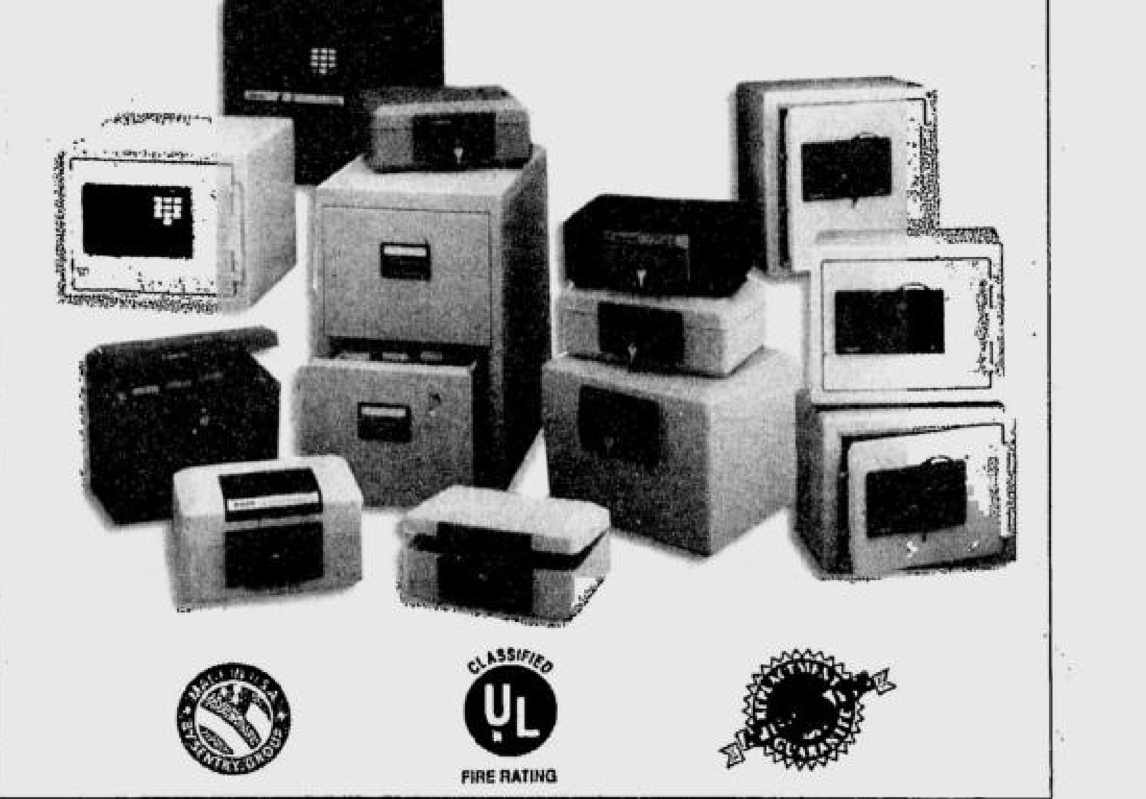

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- Worker found guilty of raping his boss in front of her son A23

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

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PROTEST VS ABALOS POLICIES

12 LGUs stop contributions to MMDA

By Agnes E. Donato

TWELVE of the 17 Metro Manila mayors who were said to have met in secret have agreed to discontinue remitting their monthly monetary contributions to the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

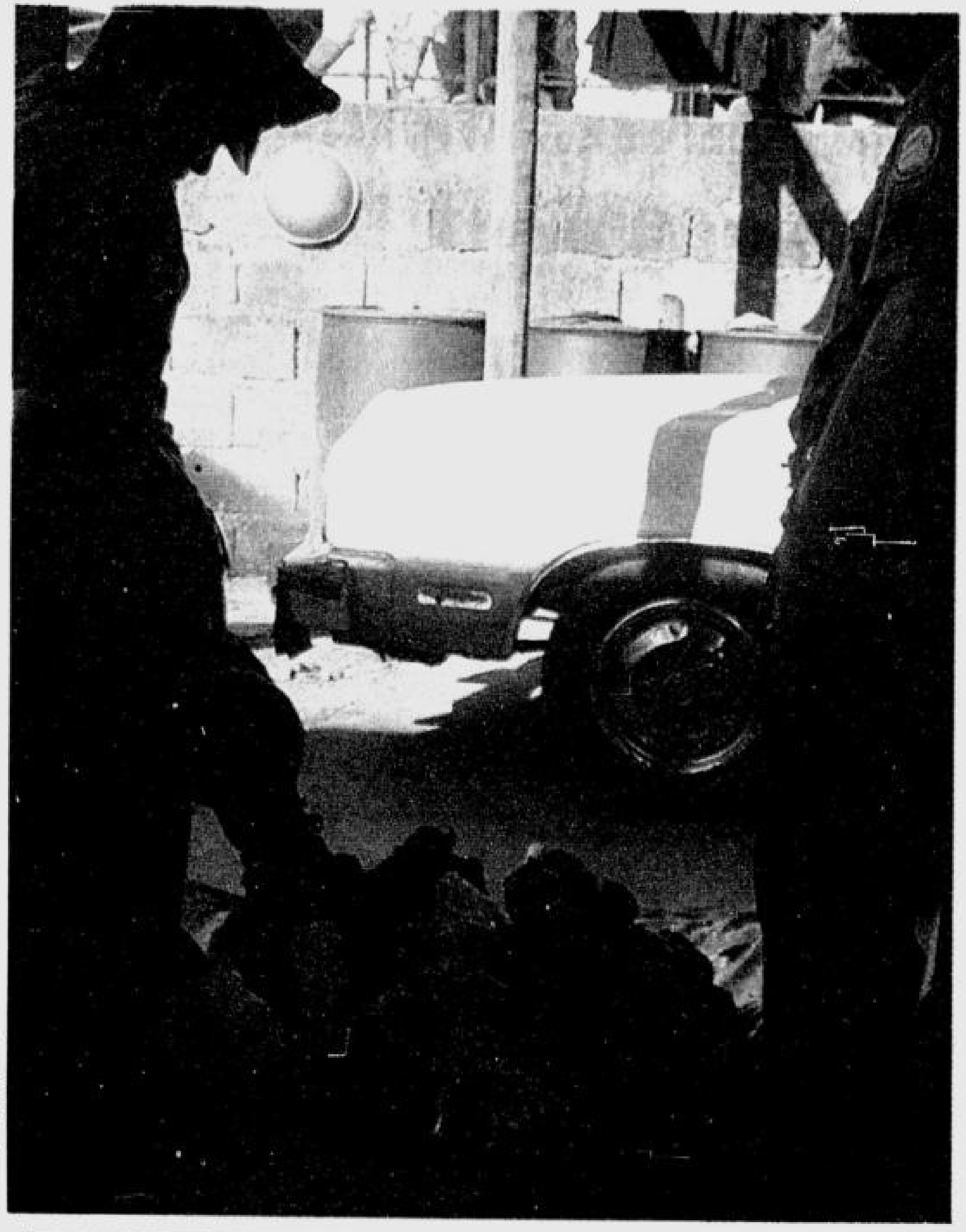
The move is allegedly a protest against recent policy changes made by MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr.

Each city or municipality contributes five percent of its internal revenue allotment to the MMDA, as mandated by Republic Act No. 7924, which provided for the creation of the agency.

One of the mayors allegedly present in the meeting on Tuesday said the dissenting local executives, believed to be closely associated with disgraced President Estrada, took particular note of the MMDA's alleged failure to solve the garbage and traffic problems.

The mayors reportedly agreed in principle that it would be useless to continue their contributions to the MMDA after-

12 LGUs/A24



WHOSE BODIES ARE THESE? Policemen inspect two men's bodies that were recently found burned beyond recognition in Dasmariñas, Cavite. Speculation said they could be the bodies of PR practitioner Bubby Dacer and his driver, who have been missing since November 2000, but investigators were not certain.

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DELIBERATE, SAY WITNESSES

Car kills young man going into hotel with girlfriend

By Jerome Aning

AN 18-YEAR-OLD man was killed while his female companion was seriously injured when a speeding car rammed the tricycle they were riding just as the victims were about to enter a motel in Old Sta. Mesa, Manila before dawn yesterday.

Witnesses told police a silver Toyota Corolla (TDS-238) appeared to have deliberately hit the tricycle of Marlon Fernando and Cielò Francisco, residents of Aglipay Street in Mandaluyong City.

The witnesses said the car even made a U-turn and tried again to run over the couple.

Fernando was killed on the spot while Francisco is in critical condition at the Philippine Orthopedic Center in Quezon City, said SPO4 Manuel Ceñon of the city traffic police.

Police said the pair, on board an unmarked tricycle, were about to enter Ligaya Motel on Old Sta. Mesa Road about 2:40 a.m., when the car, which seemed to be tailing them, increased speed and rammed them from behind.

On impact, Fernando and Francisco were hurled several feet. Horrified witnesses told SPO4 Ceñon that while the couple lay groaning on the ground, the car made a U-turn and ran over Fernando, crushing him dead.

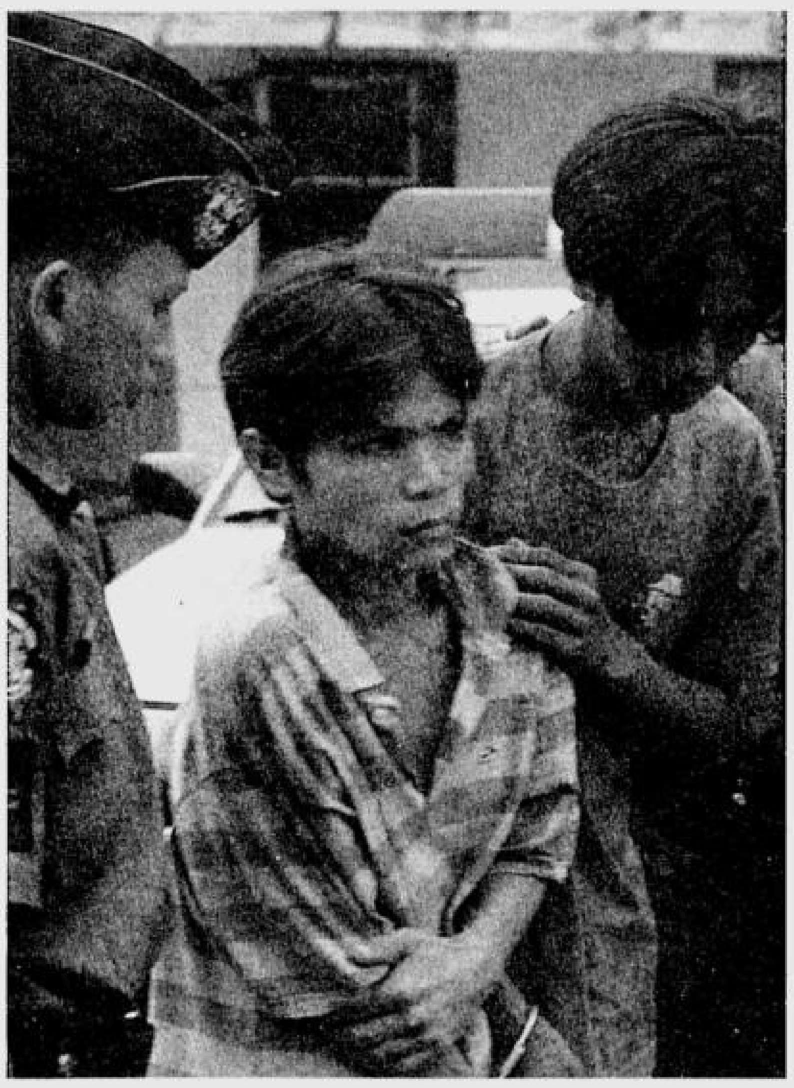
The car then turned sideways and tried to hit Francisco before it sped away.

Bystanders took Francisco to the hospital.

SPO4 Ceñon believed jealousy might have something to do with the incident when he learned that Francisco was already living in with another man.

But police have yet to identify the woman's live-in partner.

Police have issued a Metro Manila-wide alert for the killer car.



DID THEY SNATCH YOURS, TOO? RANDY HORMILLOSA
Jomar Sotto and Rogelio Prego are arrested in Sta. Cruz, Manila for several cases of cellular phone snatchings in the area. The suspects admitted they have snatched hundreds of phones, according to police.

Prosecutor 'bungled' rape case involving cops, says Herrera

FORMER senator and congressman Ernesto Herrera has urged the Department of Justice to punish the prosecutor who bungled the case of a 28-year-old housewife who was gang-raped by a police major and two of his men in Valenzuela City.

Herrera said former Chief Insp. Restituto Cablayan, former PO3 Marlon Logan and former traffic aide Russel Murillo were saved from execution because the prosecutor failed to allege that the victim was in their custody when she was raped, and that the accused were lawmen.

"This is pure and simple incompetence and negligence on the part of the prosecutor, who allowed the convicts to escape death on a technicality," said Herrera, one of the authors of the Death Penalty Law.

Valenzuela Regional Trial Court Judge Adriano Osorio sentenced the three lawmen to death in April 1997.

They were found guilty of raping the housewife, who was then being held for allegedly issuing a bouncing check. While reeking of liquor, they took turns in raping the woman six times until she was rushed to the hospital because of bleeding and fever.

However, after reviewing the case, the Supreme Court found that the prosecutor never alleged any of the aggravating factors in the charge sheet.

"To merit death, the aggravating circumstance of the accused-appellants' membership in the police, or complainant's being under police custody must be alleged in the information," the court said. "For the prosecution's failure to do so, these facts cannot be appreciated as aggravating circumstances.

"In the absence of either aggravating factor, the proper penalty that should be imposed is life imprisonment," the tribunal said in a 22-page decision promulgated earlier this week.

At least 47 incestuous rapists have been saved from execution on account of similar technicalities, when prosecutors failed to allege the father-daughter relationship of the accused and the victim and/or the victim's minor age, Herrera pointed out.

Under the law, rape is a capital offense punishable by mandatory death if the culprit is a government agent, or if the victim is assaulted while in police custody.

Herrera is a senatorial candidate of the People Power Coalition.

Ex-seaman found dead

RATS and cockroaches were feasting on the decomposing body of a 33-year-old former seaman whom neighbors found inside his apartment in Tondo, Manila Wednesday afternoon.

The dead man was identified through his seaman's book as Eustaquio Suyao, 38, single, of the apartment located on Sgt. Mabagos Street in Barangay 28, Tondo.

Investigator SPO1 Edmundo Cabal of the Western Police District homicide section said Suyao was seated on a plastic chair in his living room when his neighbor Francisco Estrullo found him.

Estrullo, who lives next door, said he had been catching whiffs of something decomposing coming out of his neighbor's room for the past few days. He said he at first thought it was from a dead animal.

When the stench had become quite unbearable, he called barangay official Eliseo Comayo to accompany him and other neighbors in forcibly opening the apartment on Wednesday afternoon.

Police said several rats and a swarm of cockroaches were nibbling all over the corpse, particularly in the abdominal portion. *Jerome Aning*

Bonus from SkyCable, but champ nearly walked out

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

PICHIT, Thailand—I requested the hotel manager, who could handle no more than a dozen English words, for writing paper.

I had expected two or three pages at most.

The room boy soon knocked on the door to deliver a full ream of coupon bond on a tray.

The kid left after bowing and smiling that world-famous Thai smile

The neon sign at the One-by-One Seafood Market in Bangkok read: No Fresh, No Pay.

That was three days ago, when our group was treated to a regal feast of succulent steamed fish on soy-and-fresh-garlic sauce, spicy clam soup with ginger and coco milk, capped by shelled, half-boiled white shrimps. We washed the food down with cold beer.

The unforgettable picnic off Sukhumvit, you could swear, was a lifetime bargain.

* * *

The five-hour bus trip from Bangkok to this calm, humid province provided a rare feast for tired eyes. The rural sceneries, verdant, quiet, soothing, were an unexpected bonus.

We also traveled on silken asphalt roads.

The reception accorded the lone Filipino world boxing champion was fit for a returning prince. He was lavishly honored and garlanded.

The entire retinue, down to this straying deadline beater, got its happy share of leis around the neck.

All the above clearly showed how Thailand treasures tourism.

The hosts have a unique way of making the traveler feel he sure is getting a bonus wherever he goes.

* * *

Now, for Filipino sports fans, promoters of today's World Boxing Council flyweight championship featuring our very own Malcolm Tuñacao are offering a special treat.

Papa Boonyong, a revered local boxing promoter who idolizes the late Lope Sarreal Sr., said the title bout would be covered by Thailand's Channel 7 television.

This is the same channel being carried by Skycable in the Philippines.

Which means that, even as there's no Manila channel covering the championship, all Filipino fans have to do is tune in to Skycable and look for the fight scheduled between 4 and 6 p.m.

Papa Boonyong, who was instrumental in the successful world title bids of Rolando Pascua, Eric Chavez and, lately, Malcolm Tuñacao, made the announcement at the Rose Inn Hotel coffee shop where he treated the Filipino group to another memorable dinner.

* * *

Everything, you may say, was starting to feel like Christmas for the Filipino visitors. Until we woke yesterday morning and realized that Thais will always be Thais after all.

This highly patriotic people take boxing with fanatical zeal.

So, when it was time for Malcolm Tuñacao to check on his actual weight on the official scales, local fight handlers swore the machine was still in Bangkok.

The weigh-in venue was also inexplicably moved from Rose Inn, Tunacao's quarters, to another hotel nearly an hour away from where the Filipino world champ stays.

Tuñacao's group had no choice but to pack up and move to the other hotel to avoid wasting time and energy travelling back and forth to the designated place.

After Tuñacao has settled inside the new hotel, local promoters tried to eject the champ from his room. This prompted a protest and nearly caused a walkout by the Tuñacao group, headed by manager Rex Wakee Salud.

Of course, we haven't seen the worst side of the fanatical Thai boxing supporter yet.

Just wait until our fighter enters the ring today.

It can be Christmas all-year-round for visiting tourists here. But, come world championship time, the place turns into a frenzied hometown decision capital of the world.

You've got to win by knockout. The Thai boxing world, sorry, doesn't know the word bonus.

1-day course

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Cosmetic Surgery will again offer a one-day instructional course on rhinoplasty on Sunday, March 11, 2001, at the De Los Santos Medical Center in Quezon City.

There will be a lecture series in the morning to be followed by live surgical demonstrations in the afternoon.

After the lunch break, specialists will perform demonstrations.

The topics to be covered are as follows: 1. Basic Anatomy 2. Pre-Operative Evaluation and Consultation 3. Implant Types and Designs 4. Anesthesia and Sedation 5. Augmentation (Silicon and Conchal Cartilage 6. Alarplasty (Base and Rim Resections) 7. Bulbous Nose Repair 8. Injected Noses 9. Cleft Lip Nose Repair 10. Nasal Bone Fractures and Septo-Rhinoplasty 11. Errors and Complications in Rhinoplasty.

The registration fee is P4,500 (pre-registration rate before March 11) or P5,000 (for on site registration). Interested parties can contact Dr. Corazon Collantes-Jose, 819-2966 and 411-6231; Dr. Charie Ballecer, 840-1222 and 840-1757; and Dr. Mariano Agcaoili, 724-3675 and 724-3511.

Worker gets life for raping his boss in front of her son

By Christian V. Esguerra

A CALOOCAN regional trial court on Wednesday sentenced a young worker to life imprisonment for raping his 33-year-old employer in front of her 2-year-old son in 1999.

Judge Myrna Dimaranan Vidal of RTC Branch 127 found Edwin Gerna, of R-10 Marcos Highway, Tondo, Manila, guilty of sexually abusing his employer, a businesswoman, inside her house on Kaunlaran Village, Caloocan City on June 20, 1999.

Gerna was, however, acquitted of theft charges after the prosecution failed to prove he robbed the victim of P52,000 in cash after raping her.

Vidal also ordered Gerna, an errand boy of her live-in partner's brother, to pay the victim P230,000 in damages.

Based on court records, the woman and her son were alone in the house during the incident. Her companion was then in the province on business while her partner's brother had not come home for the night.

The victim woke up at about 2:30 a.m. when she felt somebody on top of her, fondling her private parts, in her 3rd floor bedroom which she shared with her son.

The woman recognized Gerna, who then pointed a kitchen knife to her neck and threatened to kill her and her son sleeping beside her if she would not give in.

The victim begged Gerna to stop and even offered him cash, but to no avail.

At one point, the victim got hold of the knife, which Gerna placed beside the bed as he was trying to penetrate her. But the accused managed to wrest the knife from the victim.

When the accused forced the victim to give him oral sex, her son woke up and began crying, "Mommy! Mommy!"

Gerna again threatened the victim and ordered her to pacify her son.

As the victim was preparing her son's milk, the accused pulled her to him and began to rape her, in full view of her son who began crying out loud.

Before he left, Gerna warned he would kill the woman should she report the incident to anyone.

12 LGUs stop contributions . . .

(From page A23)

Abalos devolved two of the agency's major functions to the local government units and the police.

Abalos recently transferred to the local police the responsibility of traffic rules enforcement in Metro Manila streets. He explained the local police would know better how to handle the problem in their place.

Under this setup, the local police would absorb some 13,000 MMDA traffic enforcers who had been in charge of enforcing the traffic rules in the streets of the metropolis.

In a garbage summit in January, Abalos also asked the local executives to implement the waste management scheme in their localities and put up their own ecological centers.

On Jan. 31, Abalos vowed to provide a solution to the garbage problem of Metro Manila. But he failed to deliver on his promise and has turned on the local executives to implement at their level the government's garbage segregation scheme.

Abalos also warned local governments on Feb. 12 that they would be held accountable if they failed to implement the scheme.

He cited Republic Act No. 9003, which, among others, provided the MMDA with the power to penalize local officials if they did not enforce the waste management law.

But the dissenting mayors apparently took Abalos' moves as passing the buck to them.

Scavenger kills colleague over Payatas plot

SCAVENGER Edwin Aromas would kill for land, even if the plot he craved for happened to be near the dangerous dumpsite in Payatas, Quezon City.

Aromas, 40, of Phase II Extension, Lupang Pangako, Payatas B, Quezon City, reportedly stabbed his friend and fellow scavenger Danilo M. Cenco, 41, also of Payatas B, about midnight yesterday, said SPO1 Rodrigo Barrameda of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit (CPD-CIU).

Barrameda said the two had just had a drink and were on their way home when they started arguing over the patch of land both were said to be eyeing.

As the pair entered a dark alley on Phase II, Payatas B, Aromas allegedly lost his temper, pulled out a fan knife and repeatedly stabbed his friend, Barrameda said.

Cenco did not make it alive to the hospital, police said.

Police are now hunting down Aromas. Cenco's body was taken to the PNP Crime Laboratory for autopsy, Barrameda said. *Philip C. Tubeza*

First blaze in Fire Prevention Month

PASAY City firemen, who were set to show off their fire fighting skills in yesterday's Fire Prevention Month celebration, used them instead in real life after a fire broke out at the Pasay City West High School yesterday morning, the very first day of Fire Prevention Month.

The fire started in the ceiling of the school's home economics room at 7:25 a.m. The school is located right behind the Pasay City Hall. No one was reported injured in the fire that was quickly put out.

FO1 Eric Enero explained that while the Pasay City Fire Department sent a contingent to the Quirino grandstand for the celebration, most of the Pasay City firemen were on active duty and on call yesterday.

Enero said that because March is Fire Prevention Month, they were given orders to make an "all-out" response to any fire report. *Alcuin Papa*

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines invites prospective bidders for the:

Supply/provision/implementation of one (1) lot Software and Services for DBP's Trade Finance and Remittance System

Prospective bidders are required to attend the pre-bid conference on March 12, 2001 at the Procurement Services Division, PMU/PSM, 6th Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City at 1:30 p.m. Only bidders present at the pre-bid conference shall be allowed to attend the bidding on the date which will be announced after the pre-bid conference. Suppliers which have successfully installed a similar system in a Philippine bank with a volume equal or greater than DBP's trade transaction shall be given preference.

PROPERTY & SECURITY MANAGEMENT

(PDI – Mar. 2, 3 & 5, 2001)

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

In the Matter of the
Adoption Petition of
BILLY J. VOSSLER
Adopting Parent

Case No. 00AD00295
CITATION TO APPEAR

The People of the State of California
To RODELIO DELA FUENTE:

By order of this Court, you are hereby cited and required to appear before Department 124 of the above-entitled Court on June 4, 2001 at 8:30 a.m. then and there to show cause, if any you have, why JAN BENIGNO DELA FUENTE and MARK CHRISTIAN DELA FUENTE, minors should not be declared free from your parental control according to the petition on file herein to free the minors for adoption.

The address of the Court is: 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, California 95826.

For a failure without reasonable cause to appear and abide by the order of the Court, you will be deemed guilty of a contempt of Court.

The following information concerns rights and procedures which relate to this proceeding for the termination of custody and control of JAN BENIGNO DELA FUENTE and MARK CHRISTIAN DELA FUENTE, as set forth in Sections 78670-7864 of the Family Code.

(1) At the beginning of the proceeding the Court will consider whether or not the interest of JAN BENIGNO DELA FUENTE and MARK CHRISTIAN DELA FUENTE, require the appointment of counsel. If the Court finds that the interest of JAN BENIGNO DELA FUENTE and MARK CHRISTIAN DELA FUENTE do require such protection, the Court will appoint counsel to represent them, whether or not they are able to afford counsel. JAN BENIGNO DELA FUENTE and MARK CHRISTIAN DELA FUENTE, will not be present in Court unless they so request or the Court so orders.

(2) If a parent of JAN BENIGNO DELA FUENTE and MARK CHRISTIAN DELA FUENTE, appears without counsel and is unable to afford counsel, the Court must appoint counsel for the parent, unless the parent knowingly and intelligently waives the right to be represented by counsel. The Court will not appoint the same counsel to represent both JAN BENIGNO DELA FUENTE and MARK CHRISTIAN DELA FUENTE and their parent.

(3) The Court may appoint either the public defender or private counsel. If private counsel is appointed, he or she will receive a reasonable sum for compensation and expenses, the amount of which will be determined by the Court. That amount must be paid by the real parties in interest, but not by the minors, in such proportions as the Court believes to be just. If, however, the Court finds that any of the real parties in interest cannot afford counsel, the amount will be paid by the County.

(4) The Court may continue the proceeding for not more than thirty (30) days as necessary to appoint counsel and to enable counsel to become acquainted with the case.

DATED: February 1, 2001

By: (Sgd.) F.M. Stevenson
Deputy Clerk

(PDI--Feb. 23, Mar. 2 & 9, 2001)

Sons of Gatchalian, Ople, Maganto running

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE SONS of a known Estrada crony, a pro-Estrada senator, and an anti-Estrada police general are running for key local government posts in Valenzuela City and the nearby province of Bulacan.

Leading the brat pack is Sherwin Gatchalian, son of tycoon William Gatchalian, known to be a close friend of Estrada, who owns Wellex Corp., which was identified during the impeachment trial as recipient of a loan from Estrada under the controversial Jose Velarde account.

The younger Gatchalian is eyeing a congressional seat in Valenzuela's first district under the Nationalist Peoples' Coalition. He is facing Magtanggol Gunigundo, former chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

Raul Ople, son of staunch Estrada supporter Sen. Blas Ople, is said to be running for congressman in Bulacan's first district under the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino. He is up against reelectionist Willie Alvarado of Lakas.

Rommel Maganto, the 26-year-old son of Gen. Romeo Maganto, is gunning for the province's vice gubernatorial seat under the Bulacan United Opposition.

The younger Maganto ran for mayor of Bustos in Bulacan when he was 23 under the Liberal Party in the 1998 election. But he lost to Arnel Mendoza, and has a pending election protest.

Should he win, Maganto said he would concentrate on the province's drug problem by putting up rehabilitation centers. He said he would try to lure more businesses in Bulacan and provide skills training among local government employees and out-of-school youth.

Maganto has a bachelor's degree in computer engineering from Adamson University and a masters degree in business administration from Ateneo.

Although Maganto does not seem to be expecting stiff competition in Bulacan, Sherwin Gatchalian has already received a share of criticisms a month before the start of the campaign period.

Reelectionist Rep. Magi Gunigundo of District II, son of Gatchalian's opponent and a member of the "Spice Boys," said Gatchalian has no genuine concern for Valenzuela residents since he is only running to gain protection for his family's business.

"He is only running to win political power so his family could strike a compromise with the new government," Rep. Gunigundo told the INQUIRER.

"He has the money but he doesn't have the academic background to be a lawmaker. He has a hidden agenda."

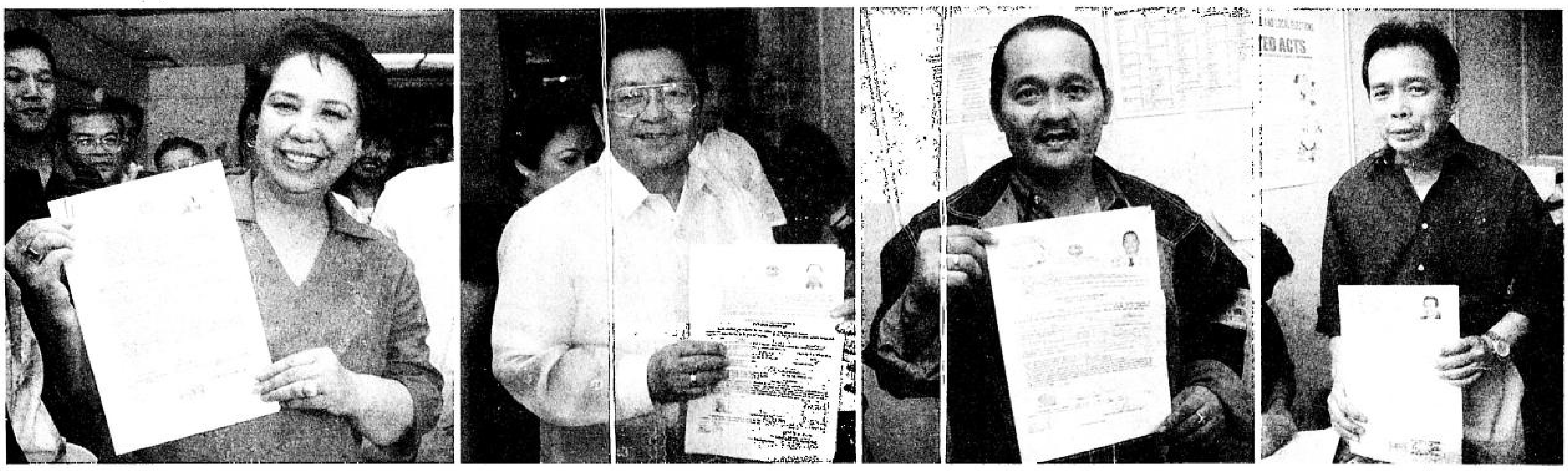
The younger Gunigundo also said Gatchalian is said to have some P50 million in campaign budget, rumored to have come from Estrada.

The lawmaker also warned residents not to fall for Gatchalian's alleged false promises to give jobs in his plastic company in Barangay Lingunan if he gets elected.

"The company has already closed shop. He's just fooling the people. He is the 'plastic king,'" said Rep. Gunigundo.

"The people should choose candidates with moral integrity, who can lead by example, morally upright, and can deliver services to them."

Gatchalian could not be contacted for comment.



BEATING the deadline in filing their certificates of candidacy are (from left) former Tourism secretary Mina Gabor, former press secretary Rod Reyes, movie bit player Amay Bisaya, and Las Piñas Vice Mayor Tony Tamayo.

RANDY HORMILLOSA

Young, fresh faces standing up against old pols in southern cities

By Alcuin Papa

YOUNG and fresh faces will be up against old and familiar personalities in cities South of Manila for the coming elections.

The political scene in Pasay City was shaken up with the last-minute entrance of former Tourism chief Mina Gabor into the congressional race.

Gabor, who grew up in Pasay, will run for the city's congressional seat against former senator Freddie Webb, Councilor Consuelo Dy of Lakas and incumbent Rep. Rolando "Ding" Briones of the NPC.

Webb once represented Parañaque in the House, but chose to run in Pasay, being a native of the city.

Gabor earlier took her oath as member of Lakas, but she suddenly switched parties the other day, becoming a candidate of Aksyon Demokratiko and Reporma.

Vice Mayor Greg Alcera, who is running for mayor under Lakas, reportedly chose Dy over Gabor as the party's congressional candidate in Pasay.

In Pasay's mayoral race, it will be youth against experience as Alcera will be up against Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad, an old hand at Pasay politics, and former police officer Ricardo "Ding" Santos.

This is the third time Santos is running for mayor.

In Muntinlupa, incumbent Rep. Ignacio Bunye of Lakas-NUCD party is being challenged by Rozzano Rufino Biazon, son of Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, who is running under the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino for the city's lone district.

A newcomer, the 32-year-old Biazon will have a tough time against Bunye, a Lakas stalwart who was once city mayor.

Biazon, the youngest among the senator's brood, is a medical technology graduate of UST. He also served as his father's chief of staff.

In the city's mayoral race, incumbent mayor Jaime Fresnedi of Lakas will face Beth Masangkay, reportedly a sister of Cynthia Villar, senatorial candidate Manny Villar's wife.

However, Masangkay's candidacy is still up in the air because of her health. She reportedly left for the US last week for treatment of a respiratory disease.

In neighboring Las Piñas, incumbent mayor Vergel "Nene" Aguilar should have no problem winning his last term since no strong candidate has yet challenged his hold on the city. Aguilar is running as an independent but reportedly has the support of Lakas.

However, the vice mayoral race in Las Piñas turned bizarre when movie actor Tirso Cruz III decided to run against incumbent Louis Bustamante, who is vying for a second term.

Bustamante is now questioning Cruz's candidacy under Lakas. Bustamante is the head of Lakas in the city and the party's official candidate for vice mayor.

For the congressional seat, Cynthia Villar, wife of former House Speaker Manny Villar, will try to take over her husband's position.

Villar will face civic leader Tony Tamayo, who is running under the Liberal Party.

Recently, Tamayo has been crusading to purge the city's voting list, which he claimed has been padded by the incumbents.

In Parañaque, last-minute congressional candidate Rod Reyes, a veteran journalist, will square off with Jose Enrico Golez, son of ex-Parañaque solon and now National Security Adviser Roilo Golez.

The younger Golez will carry the colors of the Liberal Party while Reyes, former press secretary of ousted President Estrada, is running as an independent.

Other newcomers in the race are Wally Ferrer of PDP-Laban, Maritess Asis of the LDP-NPC, Nid Alcantara of LP, Eduardo Zialcita of Lakas and independent Corazon Valenzuela.

For the Parañaque mayoral race, incumbent Joey Marquez will run for a third and last term under Lakas against former mayor Pablo Olivares.

Marikina mayor's wife wants to fill his post

INTENT on filling the seat to be vacated by her husband, Maridez Fernando is facing Rep. Romeo Candazo in the race for Marikina's top post.

The wife of incumbent Mayor Bayani Fernando on Wednesday filed her certificate of candidacy under the Ka Bayani alliance, which includes candidates from other parties like the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, Partido ng Masang Pilipino and Lakas-NUCD.

Mrs. Fernando will be campaigning side by side with incumbent Councilor Marion Andres, who will be going up against Candazo's running mate, Monette Singh.

Incumbent Vice Mayor Del de Guzman joined Lakas bet Jun Falcon and independent candidates Celso de los Angeles and actor Sonny Parsons in the congressional race.

Actor and incumbent councilor Edgar Mortiz apparently decided against following the lead of other show biz personalities.

After only one term as a Marikina councilor, Mortiz did not show up at the local Comelec to file his reelection bid.

Mrs. Fernando said she and her partymates decided to form their own party after her husband's former party, Lakas, chose to support Falcon instead of De Guzman, who was one of the original members of the party's local chapter.

Agnes E. Donato

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, March 2, 2000
Friday after Ash Wednesday

1st Reading: Is 58:1-9
Gospel: Mt 9:14-15

The disciples of John came to Jesus with the question, "How is it that we and the Pharisees fast on many occasions, but not your disciples?"

Jesus answered them, "How can you expect wedding guests to mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? Time will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, then they will fast."

Commentary

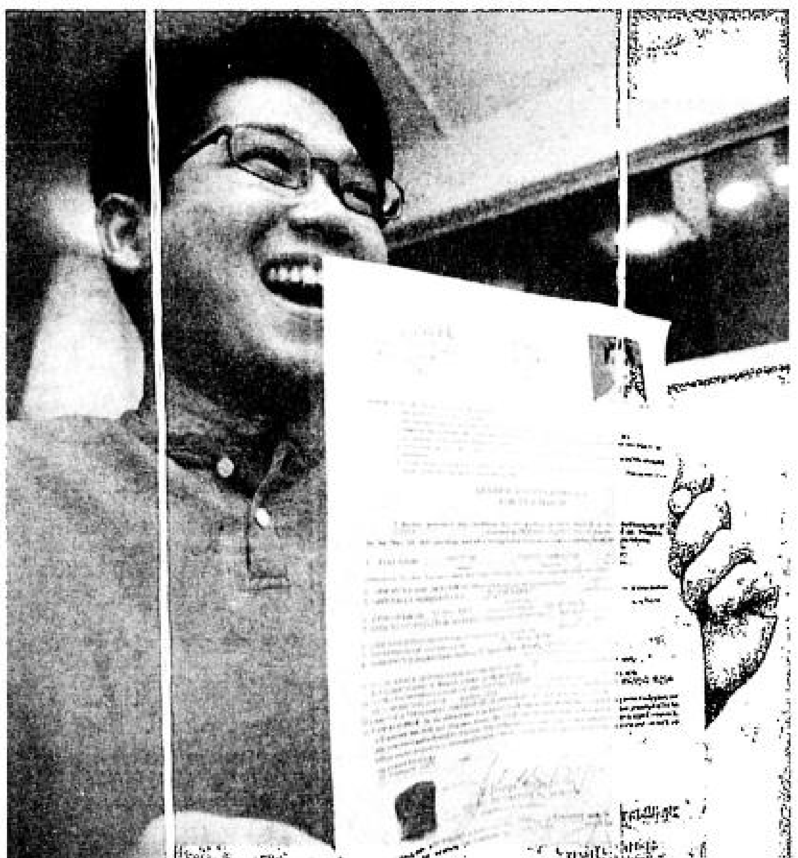
Fasting in today's unjust world has become a way of life for the great majority of our poor people. This stinks to the highest heavens. The fasting of the rich and the middle class will have any meaning only if it seeks to redress the unjust system of which they might be a part and to which they might mindlessly contribute. When we are fully conscious of Christ in us and in others and this conditions all our relations, then fasting will have to cease. Many of us urgently need to fast, so that others may simply live.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., U.P. Village, Diliman, Quezon City, U.P. P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Website: http://www.cnl.net/claret

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Fraud—Fraud, to hinder the enforcement within this jurisdiction of a foreign judgment, must be extrinsic, i.e., fraud based on facts not controverted or resolved in the case where judgment is rendered, or that which would go to the jurisdiction of the court or would deprive the party against whom judgment is rendered a chance to defend the action to which he has a meritorious case or defense. In fine, intrinsic fraud, that is, fraud which goes to the very existence of the cause of action—such as fraud in obtaining the consent to a contract—is deemed already adjudged, and it, therefore, cannot militate against the recognition or enforcement of the foreign judgment. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Vitug, Third Division, Philippine Aluminum Wheels, Inc. v. FASGI Enterprises, Inc., G.R. No. 137378, October 12, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA



ON THE COMEBACK trail is Herbert Bautista, who is trying to regain the Quezon City vice mayor's post.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Cavite officials challenge Bong and Lani to debate

TWO PROMINENT Cavite politicians, miffed by what they described as uneven media exposure which they claimed heavily favors their movie star opponents, yesterday challenged Gov. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. and his wife Lani Mercado to a debate "on any issue anytime anywhere."

Rep. Ayong Maliksi, who is opposing Revilla in the race for the provincial governor's post, said the incumbent governor, being a movie and TV actor, is enjoying "one-sided publicity in all forms of media, especially in some tabloids" whom he alleged are staffed by the Revilla's "paid hacks."

Bacoor Mayor Jessie B. Castillo, whose position will be challenged by Mercado, also bewailed the "alarmingly uneven playing field in terms of media exposure." The show biz couple is saturating the print media with their "praise releases and fabricated charges against Ayong and me."

To settle issues and find out who's telling the truth, Maliksi and Castillo jointly issued a challenge to the couple to face them in a debate that they said "should be organized by non-partisan or student groups."

"They (the Revillas) can choose the topic as well as the time and place of the debate," said Castillo Thursday after he filed his certificate of candidacy at the Comelec office at the municipal hall of Bacoor. "I hope the Revillas will accept the challenge. If they are issues-oriented and for the sake of truth, they should."

Maliksi accused Revilla of allowing Cavite to slip in the national ranking of provinces and cities in terms of industrialization.

He said the province used to be the No. 1 industrialized province in the country but "now ranks only third even in the Southern Tagalog region next to Laguna and Batangas. He has no vision for the province and no program of government."

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By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

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Belmonte denied Bautista's allegations and said that it was Bautista who reneged on their earlier agreement.

"I never promised him anything," Belmonte told reporters during an awarding ceremony at Hotel Rembrandt in Quezon City.

"Besides, it was the party's decision that the incumbent vice mayor be fielded as my running mate," he added.

"When we talked two days ago, he volunteered to be the party's campaign manager," Belmonte said.

The head of the prosecution panel in disgraced President Estrada's impeachment trial, Belmonte is running under the Lakas-People Power Coalition.

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JOHNNY VILLENA

LAY MINISTER

Guillermo Tolentino (right) files his certificate of candidacy at the Cainta, Rizal Commission on Elections. Tolentino, who is running for the first time as an independent candidate for mayor, is chair of the town's Lay Ministers of the Holy Communion of Our Lady of Light Church.

Sons of Gatchalian, Ople, Maganto running

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE SONS of a known Estrada crony, a pro-Estrada senator, and an anti-Estrada police general are running for key local government posts in Valenzuela City and the nearby province of Bulacan.

Leading the brat pack is Sherwin Gatchalian, son of tycoon William Gatchalian, known to be a close friend of Estrada, who owns Wellex Corp., which was identified during the impeachment trial as recipient of a loan from Estrada under the controversial Jose Velarde account.

The younger Gatchalian is eyeing a congressional seat in Valenzuela's first district under the Nationalist Peoples' Coalition. He is facing Magtanggol Gunigundo, former chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

Raul Ople, son of staunch Estrada supporter Sen. Blas Ople, is said to be running for congressman in Bulacan's first district under the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino. He is up against reelectionist Willie Alvarado of Lakas.

Rommel Maganto, the 26-year-old son of Gen. Romeo Maganto, is gunning for the province's vice gubernatorial seat under the Bulacan United Opposition.

The younger Maganto ran for mayor of Bustos in Bulacan when he was 23 under the Liberal Party in the 1998 election. But he lost to Arnel Mendoza, and has a pending election protest.

Should he win, Maganto said he would concentrate on the province's drug problem by putting up rehabilitation centers. He said he would try to lure more businesses in Bulacan and provide skills training among local government employees and out-of-school youth.

Maganto has a bachelor's degree in computer engineering from Adamson University and a masters degree in business administration from Ateneo.

Although Maganto does not seem to be expecting stiff competition in Bulacan, Sherwin Gatchalian has already received a share of criticisms a month before the start of the campaign period.

Reelectionist Rep. Mugi Gunigundo of District II, son of Gatchalian's opponent and a member of the "Spice Boys," said Gatchalian has no genuine concern for Valenzuela residents since he is only running to gain protection for his family's business.

"He is only running to win political power so his family could strike a compromise with the new government," Rep. Gunigundo told the INQUIRER.

"He has the money but he doesn't have the academic background to be a lawmaker. He has a hidden agenda."

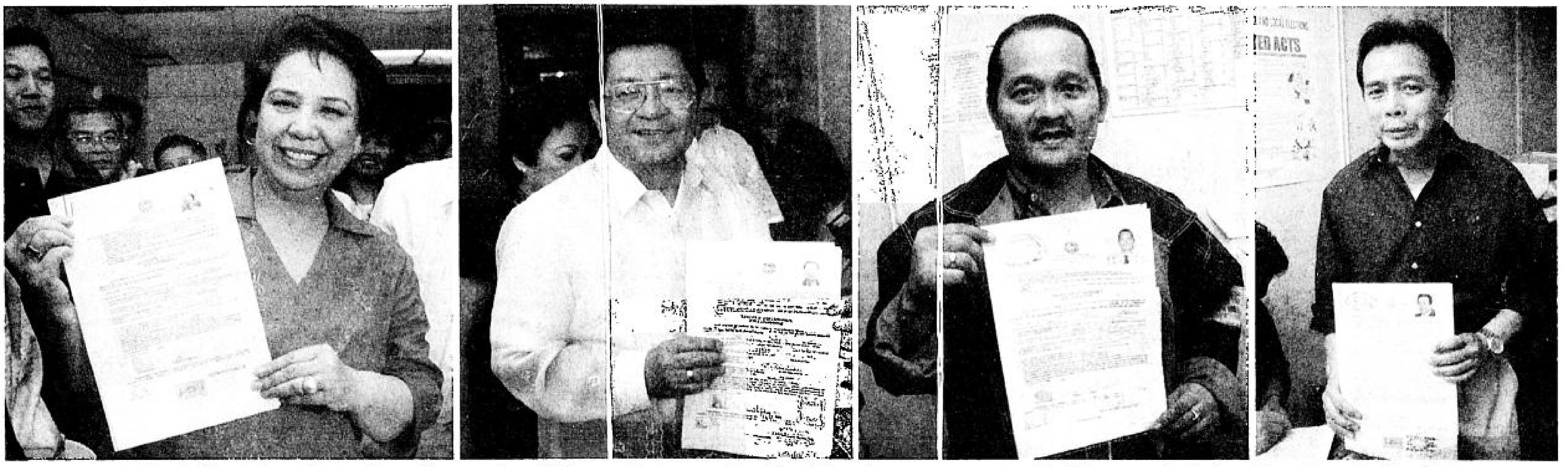
The younger Gunigundo also said Gatchalian is said to have some P50 million in campaign budget, rumored to have come from Estrada.

The lawmaker also warned residents not to fall for Gatchalian's alleged false promises to give jobs in his plastic company in Barangay Lingunan if he gets elected.

"The company has already closed shop. He's just fooling the people. He is the 'plastic king,'" said Rep. Gunigundo.

"The people should choose candidates with moral integrity, who can lead by example, morally upright, and can deliver services to them."

Gatchalian could not be contacted for comment.



BEATING the deadline in filing their certificates of candidacy are (from left) former Tourism secretary Mina Gabor, former press secretary Rod Reyes, movie bit player Amay Bisaya, and Las Piñas Vice Mayor Tony Tamayo.
RANDY HORMILLOSA

Young, fresh faces standing up against old pols in southern cities

By Alcuin Papa

YOUNG and fresh faces will be up against old and familiar personalities in cities South of Manila for the coming elections.

The political scene in Pasay City was shaken up with the last-minute entrance of former Tourism chief Mina Gabor into the congressional race.

Gabor, who grew up in Pasay, will run for the city's congressional seat against former senator Freddie Webb, Councilor Consuelo Dy of Lakas and incumbent Rep. Rolando "Ding" Briones of the NPC.

Webb once represented Parañaque in the House, but chose to run in Pasay, being a native of the city.

Gabor earlier took her oath as member of Lakas, but she suddenly switched parties the other day, becoming a candidate of Aksyon Demokratiko and Reporma.

Vice Mayor Greg Alcera, who is running for mayor under Lakas, reportedly chose Dy over Gabor as the party's congressional candidate in Pasay.

In Pasay's mayoral race, it will be youth against experience as Alcera will be up against Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad, an old hand at Pasay politics, and former police officer Ricardo "Ding" Santos.

This is the third time Santos is running for mayor.

In Muntinlupa, incumbent Rep. Ignacio Bunye of Lakas-NUCD party is being challenged by Rozzano Rufino Biazon, son of Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, who is running under the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino for the city's lone district.

A newcomer, the 32-year-old Biazon will have a tough time against Bunye, a Lakas stalwart who was once city mayor.

Biazon, the youngest among the senator's brood, is a medical technology graduate of UST. He also served as his father's chief of staff.

In the city's mayoral race, incumbent mayor Jaime Fresnedi of Lakas will face Beth Masangakay, reportedly a sister of Cynthia Villar, senatorial candidate Manny Villar's wife.

However, Masangakay's candidacy is still up in the air because of her health. She reportedly left for the US last week for treatment of a respiratory disease.

In neighboring Las Piñas, incumbent mayor Vergel "Nene" Aguilar should have no problem winning his last term since no strong candidate has yet challenged his hold on the city. Aguilar is running as an independent but reportedly has the support of Lakas.

However, the vice mayoral race in Las Piñas turned bizarre when movie actor Tirso Cruz III decided to run against incumbent Louis Bustamante, who is vying for a second term.

Bustamante is now questioning Cruz's candidacy under Lakas. Bustamante is the head of Lakas in the city and the party's official candidate for vice mayor.

For the congressional seat, Cynthia Villar, wife of former House Speaker Manny Villar, will try to take over her husband's position.

Villar will face civic leader Tony Tamayo, who is running under the Liberal Party.

Recently, Tamayo has been crusading to purge the city's voting list, which he claimed has been padded by the incumbents.

In Parañaque, last-minute congressional candidate Rod Reyes, a veteran journalist, will square off with Jose Enrico Golez, son of ex-Parañaque solon and now National Security Adviser Roilo Golez.

The younger Golez will carry the colors of the Liberal Party while Reyes, former press secretary of ousted President Estrada, is running as an independent.

Other newcomers in the race are Wally Ferrer of PDP-Laban, Maritess Asis of the LDP-NPC, Nid Alcantara of LP, Eduardo Zialcita of Lakas and independent Corazon Valenzuela.

For the Parañaque mayoral race, incumbent Joey Marquez will run for a third and last term under Lakas against former mayor Pablo Olivares.

Marikina mayor's wife wants to fill his post

INTENT on filling the seat to be vacated by her husband, Maridez Fernando is facing Rep. Romeo Candazo in the race for Marikina's top post.

The wife of incumbent Mayor Bayani Fernando on Wednesday filed her certificate of candidacy under the Ka Bayani alliance, which includes candidates from other parties like the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, Partido ng Masang Pilipino and Lakas-NUCD.

Mrs. Fernando will be campaigning side by side with incumbent Councilor Marion Andres, who will be going up against Candazo's running mate, Monette Singh.

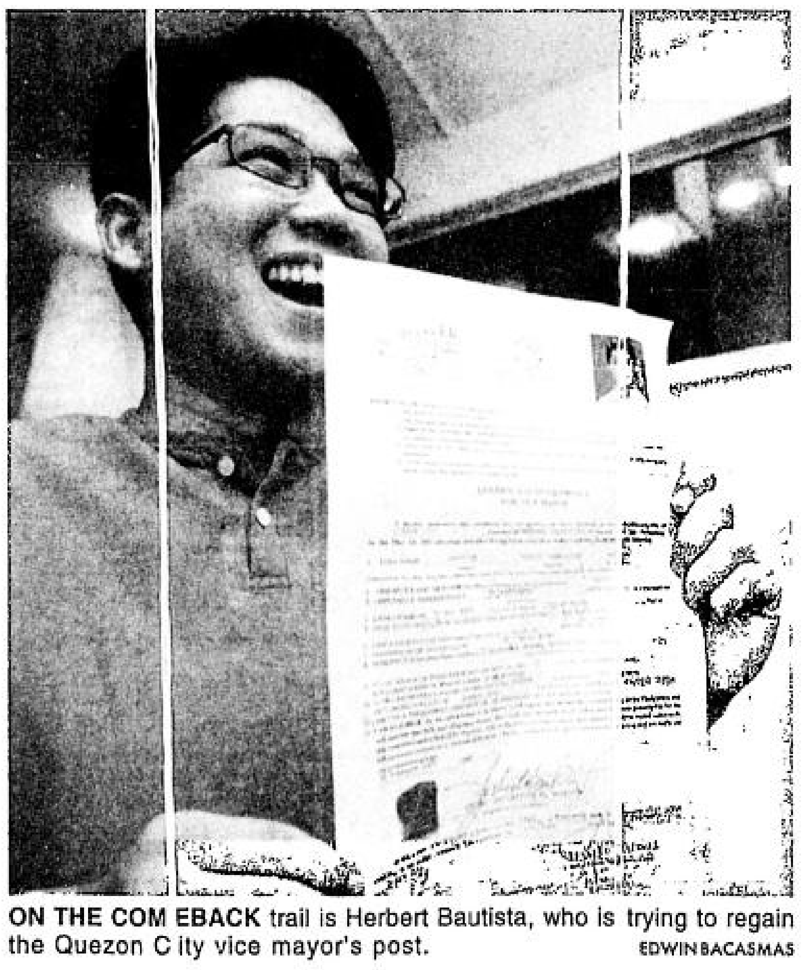
Incumbent Vice Mayor Del de Guzman joined Lakas bet Jun Falcon and independent candidates Celso de los Angeles and actor Sonny Parsons in the congressional race.

Actor and incumbent councilor Edgar Mortiz apparently decided against following the lead of other show biz personalities.

After only one term as a Marikina councilor, Mortiz did not show up at the local Comelec to file his reelection bid.

Mrs. Fernando said she and her partymates decided to form their own party after her husband's former party, Lakas, chose to support Falcon instead of De Guzman, who was one of the original members of the party's local chapter.

Agnes E. Donato



ON THE COMEBACK trail is Herbert Bautista, who is trying to regain the Quezon City vice mayor's post.
EDWIN BACASMAS

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Cavite officials challenge Bong and Lani to debate

TWO PROMINENT Cavite politicians, miffed by what they described as uneven media exposure which they claimed heavily favors their movie star opponents, yesterday challenged Gov. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. and his wife Lani Mercado to a debate "on any issue anytime anywhere."

Rep. Ayong Maliksi, who is opposing Revilla in the race for the provincial governor's post, said the incumbent governor, being a movie and TV actor, is enjoying "one-sided publicity in all forms of media, especially in some tabloids" whom he alleged are staffed by the Revilla's "paid hacks."

Bacoor Mayor Jessie B. Castillo, whose position will be challenged by Mercado, also bewailed the "alarmingly uneven playing field in terms of media exposure." The show biz couple is saturating the print media with their "praise releases and fabricated charges against Ayong and me."

To settle issues and find out who's telling the truth, Maliksi and Castillo jointly issued a challenge to the couple to face them in a debate that they said "should be organized by non-partisan or student groups."

"They (the Revillas) can choose the topic as well as the time and place of the debate," said Castillo Thursday after he filed his certificate of candidacy at the Comelec office at the municipal hall of Bacoor. "I hope the Revillas will accept the challenge. If they are issues-oriented and for the sake of truth, they should."

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, March 2, 2000
Friday after Ash Wednesday

1st Reading: Is 58:1-9
Gospel: Mt 9:14-15

The disciples of John came to Jesus with the question, "How is it that we and the Pharisees fast on many occasions, but not your disciples?"

Jesus answered them, "How can you expect wedding guests to mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? Time will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, then they will fast."

Commentary

Fasting in today's unjust world has become a way of life for the great majority of our poor people. This stinks to the highest heavens. The fasting of the rich and the middle class will have any meaning only if it seeks to redress the unjust system of which they might be a part and to which they might mindlessly contribute. When we are fully conscious of Christ in us and in others and this conditions all our relations, then fasting will have to cease. Many of us urgently need to fast, so that others may simply live.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., U.P. Village, Diliman, Quezon City, U.P. P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Website: http://www.cnl.net/claret

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Fraud—Fraud, to hinder the enforcement within this jurisdiction of a foreign judgment, must be extrinsic, i.e., fraud based on facts not controverted or resolved in the case where judgment is rendered, or that which would go to the jurisdiction of the court or would deprive the party against whom judgment is rendered a chance to defend the action to which he has a meritorious case or defense. In fine, intrinsic fraud, that is, fraud which goes to the very existence of the cause of action—such as fraud in obtaining the consent to a contract—is deemed already adjudged, and it, therefore, cannot militate against the recognition or enforcement of the foreign judgment. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Vitug, Third Division, Philippine Aluminum Wheels, Inc. v. FASGI Enterprises, Inc., G.R. No. 137378, October 12, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

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7	DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
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9	DOLBY SURROUND	TUHOG
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	FAMILY MAN

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5	DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE
6	DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	HANNIBAL
8	DOLBY SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
9	DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	CAST AWAY
11	DOLBY SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
12	DOLBY SURROUND	TUHOG

SM CITY MANILA		5238240
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4	DOLBY SURROUND	HANNIBAL
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	PAY IT FORWARD
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	HANNIBAL
7	DOLBY SURROUND	DEMON GATE
8	DOLBY SURROUND	TUHOG
9	DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	BLONDIE
11	DOLBY SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
12	DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR		8820950
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2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HANNIBAL
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6	DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

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4	DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE
5	DOLBY SURROUND	CAST AWAY
6	DOLBY SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
7	DTS	HANNIBAL
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	HANNIBAL
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
10	DOLBY SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	PAY IT FORWARD
12	DOLBY SURROUND	DEMON GATE

SM SOUTHMALL		8066888 • 8066782
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2	ULTRA SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
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4	ULTRA SURROUND	HOSTAGE
5	ULTRA SURROUND	BLONDIE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	DEMON GATE
7	ULTRA SURROUND	HOSTAGE
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	HANNIBAL
9	ULTRA SURROUND	TUHOG
10	ULTRA SURROUND	OBJECT OF OBSESSION

TUTUBAN CENTER		2514302
1	ULTRA SURROUND	HANNIBAL
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HOSTAGE
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BLONDIE

SM CEBU		2313876
1	DOLBY SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	HANNIBAL
3	ULTRA SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
4	ULTRA SURROUND	TUHOG
5	ULTRA SURROUND	HOSTAGE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	CAST AWAY
7	DOLBY SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT

SM ILOILO		3209422
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2	ULTRA SURROUND	PROOF OF LIFE
3	ULTRA SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	VIRGIN WIFE
5	ULTRA SURROUND	HOSTAGE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CAST AWAY
8	ULTRA SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT

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2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CAST AWAY
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5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
6	DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE

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4 TIGERLAND (Phil. Premiere) In DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5 PAY IT FORWARD In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 HANNIBAL In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 FAMILY MAN In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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2 PAY IT FORWARD In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 CAST AWAY In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
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5 GOLD (DOLBY) SPLENDOR
6 GOLD (SDDS) FAMILY MAN
7 GOLD (DOLBY) VERTICAL LIMIT
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9 (PMS) HOSTAGE
10 (PMS) TUSONG TWOSOME

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3 DEMON GATE
4 OBJECT OF OBSESSION
5 TUSONG TWOSOME
6 BLONDIE
7 (DTS) HANNIBAL
8 (SDDS) CAST AWAY
9 (DOLBY) WOMAN ON TOP

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3 HANNIBAL
4 HOSTAGE
5
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3 HOSTAGE
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7 (DTS) HANNIBAL
8 ALWAYS A COP
9 THE SADE

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4 BLONDIE
5 (SDDS) HOSTAGE
6 TUHOG
7 (DOLBY) CAST AWAY
8 OBJECT OF OBSESSION

Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 OBJECT OF OBSESSION
2 BLONDIE
3 (DTS) HOSTAGE
4 TUHOG
5 (SDDS) HANNIBAL
6 (DOLBY) HOSTAGE
7 (DOLBY) TUSONG TWOSOME

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 HOSTAGE

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 HOSTAGE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson TUHOG
Lords BLONDIE
Jennet HOSTAGE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 HANNIBAL
2 HOSTAGE
3 TUSONG TWOSOME
4 TUHOG

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
1
3 HOSTAGE

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238
1 HOSTAGE
2 TUHOG
3 BLONDIE
4 HANNIBAL
5 TUSONG TWOSOME

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619
1 HOSTAGE
2 BLONDIE
3 TUHOG
4 TUSONG TWOSOME
5 OBJECT OF OBSESSION
6 ALWAYS COP

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116
1 HOSTAGE
2 HANNIBAL
3 BLONDIE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 TUSONG TWOSOME
2 HOSTAGE
3 (DTS) HANNIBAL

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 HOSTAGE
2 (DTS) PAY IT FORWARD
3 (DOLBY) HANNIBAL
4 DEMON GATE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) HANNIBAL
2 BLONDIE
3 TUHOG
4 (DTS) HOSTAGE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) HANNIBAL
2 HOSTAGE
3 (DTS) PAY IT FORWARD
4 TUSONG TWOSOME
5 DEMON GATE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 HANNIBAL
2 HOSTAGE
3 PAY IT FORWARD

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101
1 HANNIBAL
2 HOSTAGE
3 [illegible]TCH

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) [illegible]
1 TUSONG TWOSOME
2 HOSTAGE
3 TUHOG

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1 HANNIBAL
2 HOSTAGE
3 FAMILY MAN

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4341 loc. 3376
1 HOSTAGE
2 TUHOG
3 BLONDIE
4 TUSONG TWOSOME

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783
1 (DTS) HOSTAGE
2 (DTS) TUSONG TWOSOME

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 HOSTAGE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 TUSONG TWOSOME
2 HOSTAGE
3 TUHOG

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 CAST AWAY
2 TUSONG TWOSOME
3 TUHOG
4 HOSTAGE

Berma
tel 879.2168
1
2

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1 TUSONG TWOSOME
2 BLONDIE
3 HOSTAGE
4 HANNIBAL

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) HANNIBAL
2 TUSONG TWOSOME
3 HOSTAGE
4 (DTS EX) PAY IT FORWARD

*Movies [illegible] to change without prior notice

THX DOLBY dts SDDS

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a special presentation

Music bands perform at new Padi's in QC

THE AWRD-WINNING Parliament Syndicate band performs its popular music of classic hits and jazz at the new three-storey Padi's Point Restaurant and Bar in Mindanao Avenue corner Congressional Avenue, Quezon City on Saturday, March 3. Performing as the front act to their performance is For the Road band.

Tonight, First Circle and Cool Spirit will light up the venue with their lively music.

Every Wednesday of March, the popular Toy Symphony performs in the new entertainment haunt, casual dining and bar.

On Sundays, Great Divide offers relaxing acoustic music.

Other bands performing nightly at Padi's Mindave include Pop Cycle (Thursdays), Ascension (Fridays), K.O. Jones (Mondays) and Shades of Gray singing retro music (Tuesdays).

For its grand opening on March 24 (Saturday), Mulatto will be the featured band.

Padi's Mindave has a unique and totally new concept—three establishments in one address.

The first level has casual dining and bar, second level has entertainment center with state-of-the-art sound system and bar. The third Level has open-air garden.

For details, call 453-0080 or 414-4930 to 34 or 925-3117.

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STATE-OF-THE-ART CINEMAS
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http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

NOW SHOWING
[illegible] subject to change without prior notice

ERMITA 536-7809-14
① HANNIBAL
② CAST AWAY
③ BLONDIE / TUSONG TWOSOME
④ WOMAN ON TOP
⑤ HOSTAGE
⑥ OBJECT OF OBSESSION
⑦ HANNIBAL

GALLERIA
UNDER RENOVATION
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IMUS (046)875-3838
① HANNIBAL
② TUHOG
③ TUSONG TWOSOME
④ CAST AWAY
⑤ BLONDIE
⑥ HOSTAGE

BACOLOD (034)441-0453
① 102 DALMATIANS
② PROOF OF LIFE
③ VITAL PARTS
④ BOUNCE
⑤ CAST AWAY
⑥ IKA - 7 GLORYA

DOLBY dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	TUHOG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	TUSONG 2 SOME
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	CAST AWAY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SNATCH
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	PAY IT FORWARD
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	102 DALMATIANS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	WAY OF THE GUN
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	PAY IT FORWARD
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	TUHOG
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
MIRAMAR	GATAS / MY PRIVATE TEACHER
ODEON	HANNIBAL
ODEON-2	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
ROBEN	HOSTAGE
TANDEM-1	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
TANDEM-2	IKA - 7 GLORYA
TIMES	BLAIRWITCH 2 / GOSSIP
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	ANAK NG YAKUSA
ACT-2	ANAK NG KANO
ACT-3	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
ACT-4	TURN ON
CORONET-2	BLONDIE
QUEZON-1	HANIBAL
REMAR	HOSTAGE
REMAR-2	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	TUHOG
OCEAN CINEMA-A	BOYFRIEND KONG PARI
OCEAN CINEMA-B	KATAYAN
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	HANNIBAL
CINEMA-2	THE CASTLE OF SAND
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HOSTAGE
CINEMA-2	DEMON GATE
CINEMA-3	BLONDIE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	102 DALMATIANS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-6	HOSTAGE
CINEMA-7	VIRGIN WIFE
CINEMA-8	TUHOG
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HANNIBAL
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HANNIBAL
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	CAST AWAY
CINEMA-12	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
CINEMA-14	HOSTAGE
CINEMA-15	TUSONG TWOSOME
LORES	
CINEMA-2	HOSTAGE
CINEMA-3	TUHOG
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	HIGH FIDELITY
CINEMA-2	HANNIBAL
CINEMA-3	PAY IT FORWARD
CINEMA-4	FAMILY MAN
CINEMA-5	CAST AWAY
CINEMA-6	HANNIBAL

Janet Jackson has new single

JANET Jackson is back with a dynamic new single, "All For You," to be released through Virgin Records. Taken from her new album of the same title, the single follows Janet's huge smash hit last year, "Doesn't Really Mater," the theme of the box-office hit, "Nutty Professor II," where she starred with Eddie Murphy.

"All For You" is a pop funk fusion co-written and co-produced by Jimmy Jan and Terry Lewis, Janet's long-time songwriting and studio collaborators.

To be released on April 9, "All For You" comes complete with a characteristically stunning video by award-winning director David Myers.

Janet will start a new world tour this summer, launching her eagerly awaited sequel to "The Velvet Rope" tour which packed arenas in different countries.

To underline her huge influence on contemporary pop and dance music, Janet will be honored at the inaugural mtvIcon show, to premiere in the United States on March 13 and will run late April in Europe.

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NOW SHOWING

HANNIBAL
(R-18 / RT 2:05)
Suspense / Thriller
Anthony Hopkins
Julianne Moore

March 2 - Friday
4:40 PM - Hannibal
7:25 PM - Hannibal
10:10 PM - Hannibal

Sandra Bullock
is MS. CONGENIALITY
opens March 7 Wednesday

Watch out for our 4th issue WOMEN IN CINEMA coming out in March!

Pelikula is one of the beneficiary projects of the LRP Foundation, published jointly with the U-P College of Mass Communication.

Hear the Difference, Feel the Excitement

Snatching a moment of goodness in a world consumed by evil

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

GUY Ritchie is known to most people these days as **Madonna**'s hubby, but the current film "Snatch" shows he's much more than that.

As the film's director, Ritchie shows that he has quite a radical way with movies about criminals and the underworld. Instead of observing the usual *film noir* conventions, he turns them on their ear and sets them spinning like whirling dervishes on a mescaline high.

First in the world of the celluloid underworld came the films starring **Humphrey Bogart**, followed by the "Godfather" and "Bonnie and Clyde" movies, then "Pulp Fiction."

Viewers thought that the genre couldn't get more "casually evil" than that, but Ritchie's movies (he earlier made his mark in a similar vein with "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels") have upped the ante in a big way.

For one thing, most movies about underworld characters are American, while Richie is a Brit, so his criminal types have a fresh, exotic edge to them. They are of various racial or regional persuasions, so they have greater texture, ethnic flavor.

Locally, they are played by a much more colorful cast of character actors than you would usually expect to find in a movie of this type.

Surprisingly, they include the movies' current Golden boy, **Brad Pitt**, and even more surprisingly, he "uglifies" himself so effectively that he blends right in with them.

All these colorful denizens of the underworld are brought together by their shared avarise for a huge—and hugely expensive—diamond that different hoods covet.

A four-fingered snatcher gets in dutch with some low-lifes who can't quite comprehend the fortune they've suddeply stumbled into, after which various groups of hoods and goons try to pry the collosal gem out of one another's sweaty grasp.

In a brilliant sequence, all these competitive groups converge during a car chase that Ritchie plays and replays several times over, to show how the complicated convergence is effected with marvelously offhand precision.

The long and complex sequence involves one hood who's drinking a pint of milk which he throws out of the window—which splatters all over the windshield of another group's car—which blinds the driver and causes him to run over a man—who turns out later to have come, blindfolded and handcuffed, out of the trunk of *another* group's car—!

It's offhand, quicksilver correspondences like these that make "Snatch" such an enveigling viewing experience, despite the shocking acts of violence it occasionally depicts.

The wonder is that Brad Pitt is able to blend into the exotic look of this production. He does this by growing a shaggy beard that almost totally obliterates his matinee-idol looks.

He also covers his torso with messy tattoos, and he talks in a strange accent that makes him almost completely uninteligible—not just to viewers, but to the other characters in the movie as well!

What's the point to all this? Pitt plays a streetfighter who gets on the bad side of a hood who fixes fights because he refuses to get knocked out in the appointed round.

He comes across as an animal—but a principled one. In the film's casually sordid world, Pitt's "uncooperative" character is the liberating factor.

And what about the film as a whole? Its casual violence says a lot about a world that's been taken over by evil so totally that, when good does "inadvertently" win out in the end, it's truly a miracle.

Ritchie has swiftly gained a good reputation as a director because his edgy, hyper, MTV-inspired film style appeals to contemporary viewers, and because his take on goodness in a world gone totally bad—and mad—offers a sliver of hope to viewers assaulted by so much negativism in both their reel and real worlds.

Robin to campaign for Kabayan, for free

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

ACTION star **Robin Padilla** has pledged to support the candidacy of former ABS-CBN anchor **Noli de Castro**, who is running for senator.

Robin says he is willing to campaign for Noli especially in the Muslim provinces in Mindanao. The actor converted to Islam while he was serving his jail sentence for illegal possession of firearms.

A few years back, Robin wouldn't have done this favor for Noli. Interestingly, their initial encounter started with a fight. When Robin sideswiped a *balut* vendor in Pampanga that led to the illegal possession charges several years back, Noli scheduled an interview with the actor for his weekly current affairs program, "Magandang Gabi, Bayan." However, when the program crew arrived at Robin's house, the actor's lawyer advised him not to talk about the case.

Noli took it against Robin when the interview didn't happen, since it had been earlier announced on TV.

But when Robin was in jail, Noli was among the first ones who visited him. And when Robin was released, Noli was the first one to offer him an interview on "MGB."

Robin also remembers Noli's courage when they went to the Abu Sayyaf lair in Camp Abubakar in Maguindanao.

"He really had balls," the actor says of Noli. "The other media people who were with us were already crying, but Noli was so brave. *Buo ang loob niya. Puwede na kaming 'di makabalik* from that place. He really gambled his life by going there, that's why I admire him."

Robin says that the minute he learned about Noli's political venture, he immediately offered to support him "without a fee."

The actor says he is also supporting his fellow show biz star **Rudy Fernandez**, who is running for mayor in Quezon City. Robin also wants to offer his support to senatorial candidate **Santanina Rasul**, a fellow Muslim.

Even if he is now in the thick of the promo blitz for his latest movie, "Ooops, Teka Muna . . . Diskarte Ko 'To," Robin says he will find time to campaign for Noli.

"Even if I'm busy, I don't mind," he says. "If Kabayan needs help, I will be there for him."

Robin's first screen salvo for this year is a follow-up to his blockbuster, "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw," which paired him for the first time with **Regine Velasquez**.

In "Oops, Teka Muna . . . Diskarte Ko 'To," directed by **Jose Carreon** from a screenplay by **Ricky Lee** and **Mel del Rosario**, Robin is paired with young actress **Claudine Barretto**. His sidekick in the movie is Streetboys member turned comedian **Vhong Navarro**, who is also his costar in the ABS-CBN weekly sitcom, "Pwedeng Pwede."

Tonton Gutierrez plays the villain in the movie, which also stars **Jeffrey Santos**.

Robin is aware "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" is a tough act to follow.

"The audience which trooped to the theaters to watch my movie with Regine was composed mostly of girls," he says. "Claudine has her female fans, so I'm confident this movie will also do good."

GOOD BOY. Padilla returns a favor

Wanted: sexy lady

REGAL Films matriarch **Lily Monteverde** is looking for a show biz aspirant whose face she only saw in colored photos left in her office by the girl's gay talent manager or agent.

The girl has a pretty face and sexy body and can be a potential screen siren, according to Regal resident director **Joey Gosiengfiao**.

"That day, Mother was in a bad mood because the showing of 'Live Show' was postponed," Gosiengfiao relates. "The girl's manager hurriedly left when he saw Mother arrive at the Regal office. He didn't even get to talk to Mother and simply left the photos or he might have just forgotten them. We don't even know the name of the girl."

Known to be a star-maker and discoverer, Mother Lily immediately asked Gosiengfiao to look for the girl. The director wisely thought of a way to distribute the photos to entertainment columnists.

"In case she really wants to make it in show biz, a movie contract awaits her at Regal," Gosiengfiao says.

WHO is she? Mother Lily wants to know

Jay's free

SOUTH Border keyboardist and composer **Jay Durias** is now out of the slammer. He was released last week after posting bail of P80,000 on the theft charge filed against him by Southern Bulls owner **Elmer Mañosca**.

Late last year, Mañosca alleged that Jay stole musical equipment from his music bar and did not pay the rent on the Quezon City apartment that Mañosca owns.

Judge **Lisa de Guzman**, who's handling the case, issued a resolution in Jay's favor. It said that the prosecution has not established strong evidence of Jay's guilt.

Jay's lawyer, **Gilbert Reyes**, made a motion to post bail for a non-bailable offense. So, after almost a month of detention at the National Bureau of Investigation, Jay is now back with South Border.

Jay discloses the officers at NBI had been very warm to him while he was in jail. "In fact, I've made friends with many of them," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview from a recording studio last Wednesday.

"I'm back at work and it feels good," he said. "*Ingat lang sana 'yung kabilang* side after this. They might be the ones who will get desperate especially when the truth really comes out."

Jay was thankful for the support of his fellow South Border members while he was detained. His other friends in the music industry also visited him, including folk singer **Florante**, pop idol **Gary Valenciano** and members of Freestyle.

During Jay's absence, his brother **Dylan** took over for him in South Border performances.

Jay will perform with South Border in a concert at the Baguio Convention Center on March 17, 8 p.m. and in the group's ongoing "Free-=dom Tour," which will have its next stop at The Venue in Davao City on March 30 and 31, 9 p.m.

DURIAS

MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted
Strictly for ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

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BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS Kate Hudson
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ALMOST FAMOUS

Must-see film on sex & rock 'n roll

'Almost Famous' opens Mar 7

In the tradition of Cameron Crowe's Oscar-nominated JERRY MAGUIRE, ALMOST FAMOUS is a coming-of-age tale that is intelligent, well-written and infused with humor in unlikely places.

Inspired by the real-life experiences of the Academy Award nominee writer/director, ALMOST FAMOUS is the story of an unabashed rock 'n roll music fan tasked to write for Rolling Stone magazine in the '70s at age 15. As he joins the band Stillwater on tour, he befriends the band members and their groupies, and grows up, losing his virginity along the way.

ALMOST FAMOUS won a Golden Globe BEST PICTURE Award (Musical/Comedy), and 4 Academy Award nominations for Original Screenplay, Editing, and Supporting Actress for Kate Hudson and Frances McDormand. The movie also stars Billy Crudup, Jason Lee, Patrick Fugit, Anna Paquin and Fairuza Balk.

Embraced by critics, ALMOST FAMOUS is described as "absolutely fabulous," "honest and brilliant," "bighearted and bittersweet," and "filled with splendid performances."

AYALA CINEMAS
AYALA CINEMAS
LATE NIGHT SCREENINGS

LATE NIGHT SCREENING SCHEDULES
FOR
MARCH 2 (Friday) 2001

HANNIBAL
(MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18)

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
12:50 PM / 3:35 / 6:20 / 9:00 / 12:00 MN

GLORIETTA 1 (QUAD)
11:10 AM / 1:55 PM / 4:40 / 7:25 / 10: 10

GLORIETTA 4
1:00 PM / 3:45 / 6:30 / 9:15 / 12:00 MN
12:10 PM / 2:55 / 5:40 / 8:25 / 11: 10

GREENBELT
12:30 PM / 3:15 / 6:00 / 8:45 / 11: 30
12:00 NN / 2:45 / 5:30 / 8:15 / 11: 00

"HANNIBAL" FREE @ Greenbelt
Text HELLO GBELT & send to 2333

Katrina Legarda's show premieres on ANC tonight

CRUSADING lawyer Katrina Legarda, whose sharp mind and articulate interpretation of legal issues makes her a favorite resource person and talk shows and current affairs programs, joins the world of broadcasting via "Katrina Legarda: By Demand," which premieres 9 tonight on the ABS-CBN News Channel 21.

Known for her sterling track record in upholding the rights of women and children, as well as for her keen insights on justice and governance, expect Legarda to approach her new task as a talk show host with the same no-nonsense, fearless, witty and opinionated manner that has earned her the respect of viewers nationwide.

On its initial episode, "By Demand" looks into the tricks and treats of the campaign trail, Philippine-style.

LEGARDA

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL

1 HIGH FIDELITY - P13 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40	2 HANNIBAL - R18 12:45, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00	3 PAY IT FORWARD - P13 11:40, 2:15, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
4 THE FAMILY MAN - P13 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00	5 CAST AWAY - P13 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00	6 HANNIBAL - R18 11:15, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15

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and
Candice Bergen
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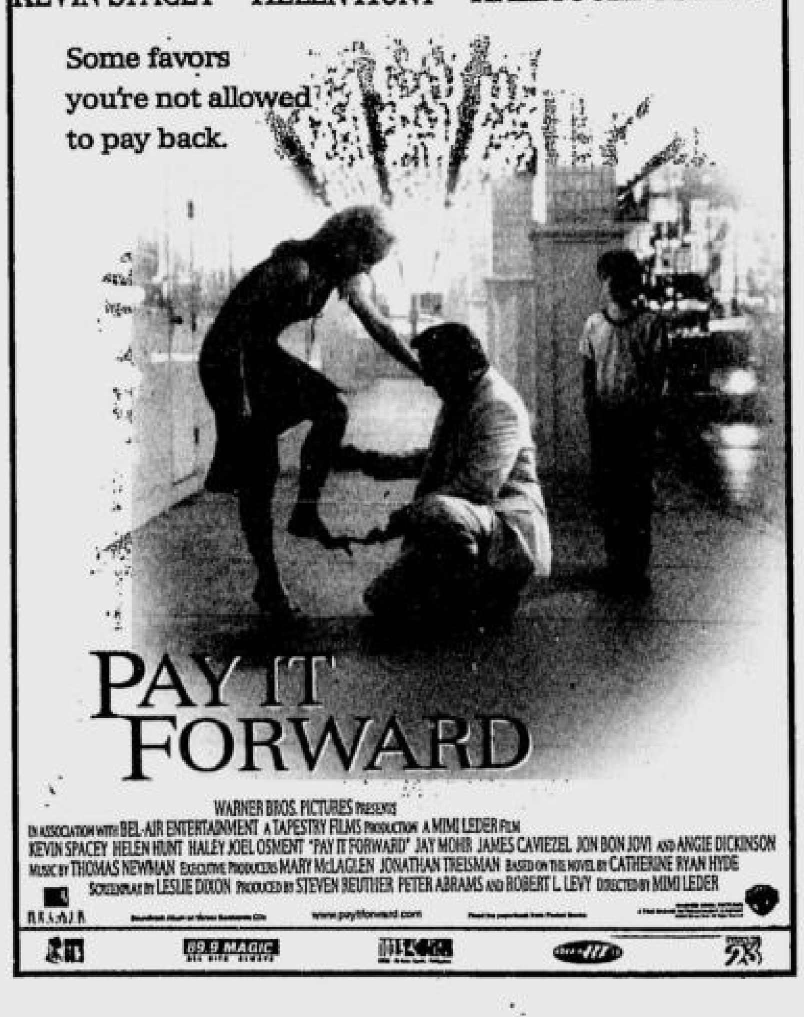

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KEVIN SPACEY
ACADEMY AWARD® WINNER
HELEN HUNT
ACADEMY AWARD® NOMINEE
HALEY JOEL OSMENT
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MUSIC BY THOMAS NEWMAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MARY McLAGLEN JONATHAN TREISMAN BASED ON THE NOVEL BY CATHERINE RYAN HYDE
SCREENPLAY BY LESLIE DIXON PRODUCED BY STEVEN REUTHER PETER ABRAMS AND ROBERT L. LEVY DIRECTED BY MIMI LEDER
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89.9 MAGIC

ENTERTAINMENT

Louie C. Camino, Editor

A ₱1,025 love story and very satisfying food servings

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

MY taping ended a little earlier than I had anticipated this past Monday, so I was able to make a quick stop at my favorite spots in Megamall—Powerbooks and Mag Net, to buy my books and magazines.

Olivia Goldsmith, one of the wittiest authors I've ever come across (you may have caught "First Wives Club" starring **Goldie Hawn**, **Diane Keaton**, and **Bette Midler**, which was based on her first best-selling novel); has a new book titled "Bay Boy." It's the book I'll start reading as soon as I get through the last few chapters of Mike Gayle's "Turning Thirty."

The plot of "Bad Boy" seems set up for many hilarious moments. It's the story of **Tracie** and **Jon**. Jon is the proverbial, sweet good guy, who normally ends up the best buddy of girls like Tracie, who seem to always get attracted to the "bad, rough on the edges, love 'em and leave 'em" boys. The premise of the story, which I gathered from perusing the book's jacket, is "What happens when Jon evolves into the bad boy of Tracie's desires? Can love flourish and will friendship survive?"

I should be done with this book before the weekend is through. I'll let you know if it's worth the purchase price of P1,025.00.

The latest Vogue (March issue), dubbed "The Power Issue," has **Penelope Cruz** on the cover. She recently starred in "Woman on Top" which I'm still hoping to catch if it's still showing this week.

Penelope has one of the most compellingly beautiful faces I've ever seen in recent years. Nasty gossip, which saw print in "Hello" magazine, speculated that she could have been one of the reasons for the sudden split-up of the 11-year **Tom Cruise-Nicole Kidman** marriage.

Tom and Penelope just finished filming "Vanilla Sky," directed by **Cameron Crowe** (the same director responsible for every single mom's favorite fairy tale, "Jerry Maguire").

The other March magazine that's a definite must-buy is In Style with **Julia Roberts** on the cover. She was photographed in Venice, and the pictures are all the convincing I need that whenever my next vacation becomes a reality, I'm going on an Italian holiday.

***

I haven't written about restaurants in a while, in part because I've really been quite disciplined about controlling my food intake. I did get to try Café Via Mare and Oyster Bar, newly opened in Tomas Morato, and their beef caldereta is delicious. The meat was tender and the spiciness was just right.

The serving was very satisfying, considering the fact that I managed to totally ignore the mouth-watering, steaming-hot long grain rice that accompanied the meat. This dish is served with bean sprouts, carrots, grean beans (similar to the *lumpiang sariwa* vegetable mixture) in very thin and crispy *lumpia* wrapper, with a sweet, garlicky sauce.

You can't go wrong with their *tokwa't baboy* (the waiter must have thought I was really strange since I requested for very little pork and mostly just fried tofu), their fresh *lumpiang ubod*, and of course their fresh oysters, whose cocktail sauce is really the best.

For dessert, their *bibingka*, *palitaw*, and *puto bumbong* are all sinfully delicious treats. (I was extremely good and just had two small bites of each.) They had a very good selection of fresh fruit juices and I made an excellent choice with my fresh melon and carrot blend.

Another, belated discovery, to which I've become quite addicted, is Baliwag Lechon Manok. Zsa-zsa **Padilla** lost weight by eating roasted chicken breast for lunch or dinner on a daily basis, and she told me that Baliwag was the juiciest and most satisfying of the bunch.

She was right. The *lechon* manok is filling, it is never *malansa* (I'm sure the leaves, I'm not sure what they are, stuffed inside the chicken have a lot to do with this).

With an accompanying salad (I like cucumbers in vinegar, or a green salad in balsamic vinaigrette) or some stir-fried vegetables, I was set, without ever feeling deprived. And Baliwag is priced so reasonably, P190 for a whole chicken. What a great deal!

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'PAY IT FORWARD'

Making it easy to surrender to sap and mush

By Emmie G. Velarde

REVIEW

I THINK about a career change intermittently. Two distinct options that have come up are sewing curtains and wrapping gifts (my friend chucks this; she says it's more profitable to wait on tables and more creative to paint clay pots).

A third option has emerged this week. I could be a social studies teacher like Eugene Simonet in "Pay It Forward."

This is made really attractive by the fact that the movie seems to say Simonet (Kevin Spacey) is good at it because he irons shirts like a pro and gives inspired lectures to pre-adolescents. Ironing is my favorite household chore, and I have a handful of pre-adolescent nephews I can experiment on.

Simonet is a broken man, really messed up inside and out. I can arrange these last two requirements if absolutely necessary.

I take exceptional pleasure in the first-day-of-school talk this teacher gives his class, including the part where he says, "Tardiness means you don't respect me," and especially the one where he points to his temple and says, "The realm of possibilities is in everyone of you . . . right here."

I particularly like the fact that this spot on either side of every person's heed is called a temple. I would include this little detail in my first-day-of-school talk.

Incessant trailers have cued viewers on the plot. I knew almost exactly what to expect when I queued up for my ticket (at P110 for a guaranteed seat, I've dropped the popcorn from the paraphernalia).

Still, the movie looked, sounded, and tasted fresh to me most of the way—at once naïve and wise, and delightful, like "Kids Say the Darndest Things," but not wanting in reality checks.

Humanity saving itself

Helen Hunt's character Arlene is largely used to provide the rough patches. This actress was born to play single mothers "hanging on by her fingertips," like her Oscar-winning part in "As Good As It Gets." I didn't mind at all that I had just seen her in "Cast Away" and "What Women Want."

So. Simonet exhorts his students to each take one thing they don't like about the world . . . and change it. He makes this speech every year hoping, but not expecting, that someone will take it seriously. Well, this year, a boy named Trevor (Haley Joel Osment) does, and proposes a project he calls "Pay It Forward."

He will de something good for three people and, instead of paying him back, these three people will be expected to do the same for three others, and so on until . . . until ultimately humanity saves itself from its own, excuse me, s—t.

This movie by Mimi Leder, director of the $140-million grosser "Deep Impact," has been roundly and mercilessly cut up in the Unites States. One critic said it "stumbled and fell on the way to the moral high ground."

Another critic has taken it personally against Kevin Spacey: "How could he?" Premiere Magazine's Gregg Kilday moans, "Haley Joel Osment has the really viable excuse of being, like, 12. Helen Hunt, sure I can see why this sort of tripe would be catnip to her. But Kevin Sapcey? Verbal Kint? My man Jack Vincennes? Lester 'I rule' Burnham?"

Kilday refers, of course, to Spacey's landmark roles in "The Usual Suspects," "L. A. Confidential," and "American Beauty."

No bad role

What is the matter with these guys? I imagine they would hurl the curse back (presuming they knew me) if they so much as heard me sniffing through some scenes. The movie makes it easy to surrender to sap and mush. (Leder, by the way, is also a veteran of the hit TV series "ER.") Actor Jay Mohr, who plays the journalist on the receiving end of a Jaguar from a total stranger paying it forward, says, "There isn't a bad role in this film." Mmmm, let me see.

Eugene Simonet: check. Everything in his life is in order—every shirt, every pencil, every person. He clings to his routine like a life jacket because it is the only way he can keep the past out of his present orbit. As for the future, he projects all his hopes to his students.

Maybe far from kookie, but Kevin Spacey in the role could wrest the "sensitive male" crown from Tom Hanks, just this once. Plus, he gets to deliver great lines. He had me at the first sizzle of the steam iron over a blue collar.

Arlene McKinney: check. Abused as a child, alcoholic, strip club waitress, change girl at the casino, appreciates fancy talk, but would rather get to the basics in the shortest time possible. Result: doormat for the wrong guys.

Hunt's best angle is, contrite mother apologizing to son she has just slapped: "For the rest of my life, I will never be as sorry for anything as I am now, for what I just did to you."

Trevor McKinney: check. He sees troubled people. Haley Joel Osment saw dead people in "The Sixth Sense" with Bruce Willis, but I must say the boy reacts better to Spacey. Easy to see why.

The Bum: check. "Have coffee with me?" Have you ever heard anyone say this with more urgency?

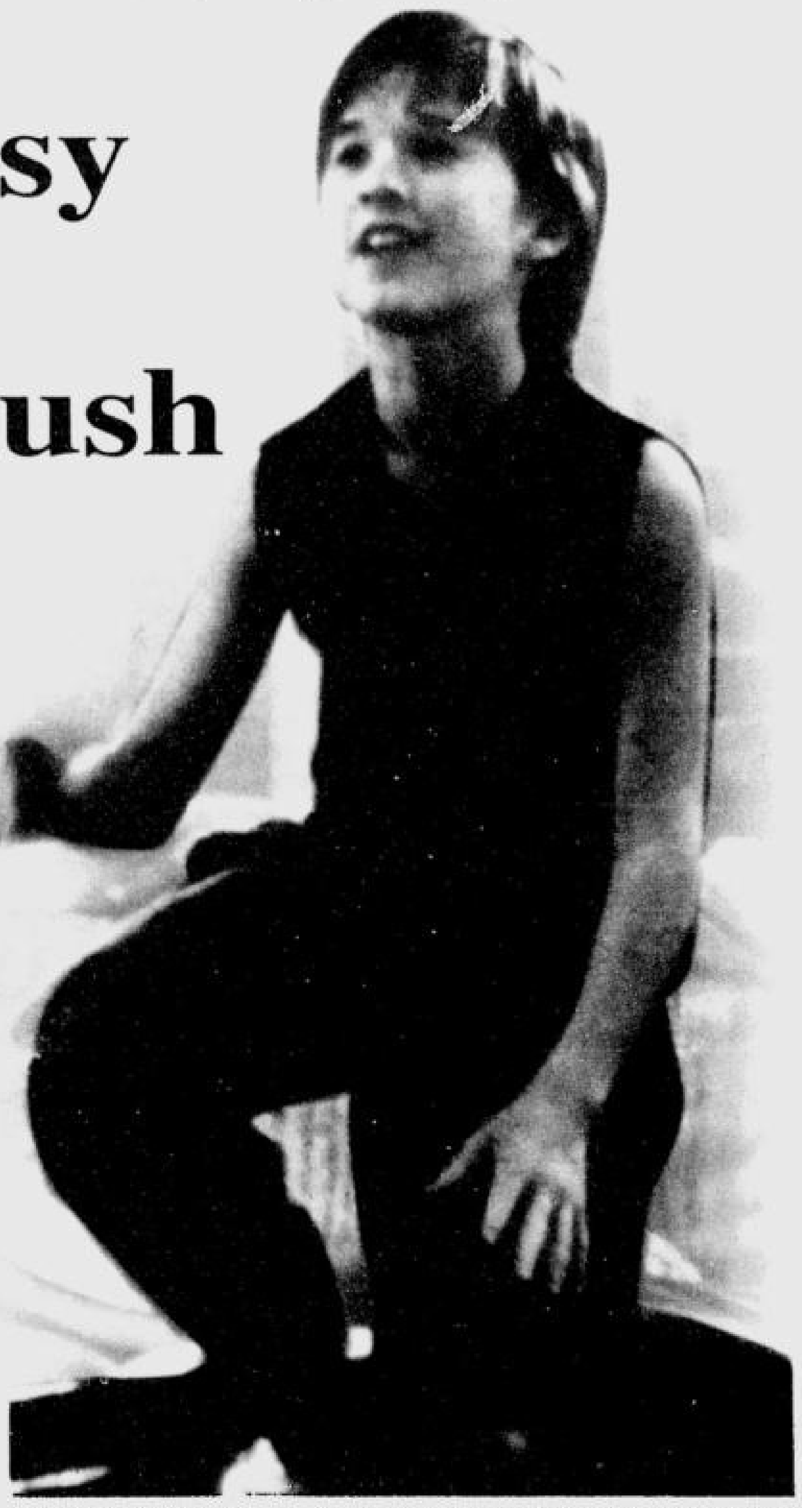
Really a romance

And so on, down the line, every character contributes, and is marked—the litigator, the bigmouth punk, the bag lady, all paying it forward.

Leder says the movie, an adaptation of a novel by Catherine Ryan Hyde, is really a romance. I'm mostly moved by Trevor's project as the central idea. Oscar winners both, Spacey and Hunt say they were drawn to the story because it dared to pose such big questions: Is there such a thing as human kindness? Is this world s—t? (I'm quoting directly from the production notes).

We could all answer these questions correctly at different stages of our lives, some more frequently than others if asked more than once. Yes, of course, human kindness is an original premise of life; and no, this world is not s—t per se. To the extent that we sometimes feel it is s—ty, to the same extent we know it shouldn't be, and that s—ty is not the natural order of things.

Given his cultivated, elevating way with words, Eugene Simonet will never approve of the above paragraph. I just have to trust he's maverick enough to appreciate the cut through the crap. Ooops, I'll never make it.



CHILD PSYCHOLOGY. Osment plays a student whose school project just might save the world.

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Malacañang names 5 nominees to SMC

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

MALACAÑANG has listed five names it would nominate as directors of San Miguel Corp., and from the five choose a replacement for Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. as chair.

Presidential legal adviser Avelino Cruz said those being considered for the top San Miguel post were Renato Valencia, former administrator of the Social Security System; banker Octavio V. Espiritu, who used to head Far East Bank and Trust Co.; former Presidential Security Group commander Leo Alvez, Hector Hofillena and Francis Fuentebella.

The shortlist came as coconut farmers expressed fear of a looming compromise between the Macapagal administration and Cojuangco.

Omi Royandoyan, head of the Multisectoral Task Force on Coco Levy, said they suspect a sellout by the Macapagal administration to Cojuangco, a known associate of deposed President Estrada.

An economist from a brokerage house said the decision of the Sandiganbayan the other day to free the sequestered shares of United Coconut Planters Bank from the clutches of the Presidential Commission on Good Government could set a precedent for San Miguel.

The anti-graft court had ruled in favor of the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation or Cocofed, a group allied with Cojuangco, to vote on the sequestered shares of stock when it declared the coconut levy funds as private.

Of the 98-percent sequestered block in UCPB, coconut farmers whom Cocofed claimed to represent own about 51 percent, the Coconut Industry Investment Fund accounts for 5.7 percent, and the Cojuangco bloc has 37.6 percent.

Royandoyan said the small coconut farmers were the rightful owners of the shares and should be represented in the board of UCPB.

Meanwhile, Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo said he would consult with presidential legal adviser Cruz to determine what should be done in both UCPB and San Miguel.

Cruz said the government would appeal to the Supreme Court to declare the coconut levy funds to be public in order to transfer the voting rights on 51 percent of San Miguel to the government.

Romulo said once the coconut levy funds have been declared public, the government would surely replace Cojuangco and his associate Ramon Ang, vice chair of San Miguel, with the names in the shortlist.

Coconut farmers were still hopeful on getting a wider representation in the UCPB board from the two board seats given to their representatives, Oscar Santos and Efren Villasenor.

Malacañang has nominated Deogracias Vistan, former president of Solid Banking Corp. and vice chair of the Metrobank Group, to chair UCPB while former Development Bank of the Philippines chair Francisco del Rosario was named as bank president.

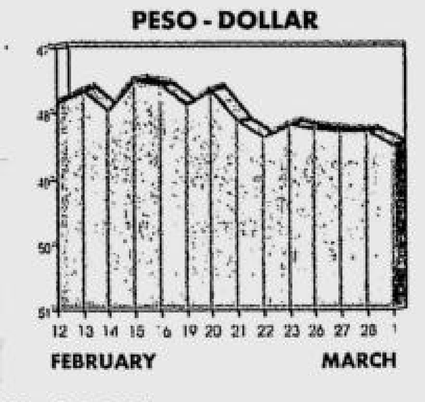
Royandoyan said the UCPB seats were used by the Macapagal administration to repay political debts to the likes of Conrado Limcaoco, spokesperson of former President Corazon Aquino; political analyst Alex Magno who was visible during the Edsa II affair, and Maria Jose Rufino of the Lakas-NUCD Party.

Also in the list of UCPB directors were Manuel Valdehuesa, Helen Osias, Dunga Lim, Francisco Lejano, Rolando Golez, Juan Carlos, Teresita Baltazar and Romeo Arceo Jr.

Royandoyan said small coconut farmers were already organizing a series of demonstrations to protest their lack of representation in UCPB, the country's eight largest with assets of P107 billion and deposits of P80.5 billion. It is classified as a regular commercial bank.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

P48.47 = $1

As of 5 p.m.,
March 1, 2001

¥117.38 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 117.38 as of 5 p.m., March 1, 2001

GOLD:$266.50/267.00

per ounce Hong Kong,
March 1, 2001

March 1, 2001

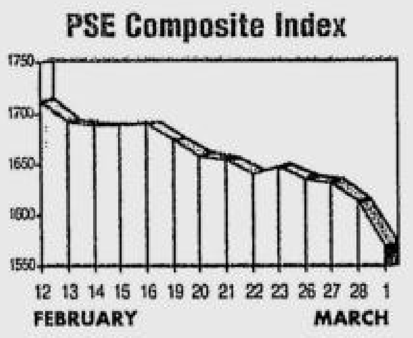
Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.082720	1.000000	48.2860
Japan	Yen	0.009231	0.008526	0.4117
United Kingdom	Pound	1.564747	1.445200	69.7829
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.138813	0.128208	6.1907
Switzerland	Franc	0.648491	0.598946	28.9207
Canada	Dollar	0.704804	0.650957	31.4321
Singapore	Dollar	0.620825	0.573394	27.6869
Australia	Dollar	0.567136	0.523807	25.2925
Bahrain	Dinar	2.872089	2.652661	128.0864
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.288702	0.266645	12.8752
Brunei	Dollar	0.622360	0.574812	27.7554
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000109	0.000101	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.025221	0.023294	1.1248
UAE	Dirham	0.294818	0.272294	13.1480
Korea	Won	0.000862	0.000796	0.0384
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.923600	44.5969
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.472229	22.8020
France	Franc	0.152450	0.140802	6.7988
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.419111	20.2372
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.067121	3.2410
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022895	1.1055
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000477	0.0230
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.155338	7.5007
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004607	0.2225
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005551	0.2680
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022896	1.1056
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.17273	56.6264

STOCK MARKET

Shares end down

STOCKS finished sharply lower yesterday, pressured by reports that said ousted leader Joseph Estrada wants to retake the presidency, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index broke its 1,600-point support to end down 43.29 points, or 2.7 percent, at 1,570.20, adding to a 1.2-percent loss Wednesday. The index has given up 4.7 percent since Monday. *AP*



(See stock market report on Page B2)

FROM left: Gunter Hecker, Dante Canlas and Cayetano Paderanga JOHNNY VILLENA

ADB earmarks $1B in loans for RP projects

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE ASIAN Development Bank, one of the country's biggest multilateral donors, has earmarked $1 billion in fresh financing to the Philippines over the next three years.

This was disclosed by ADB country director Gunther Hecker yesterday during the opening of the new country office, which is intended to be a one-stop-shop for ADB operations in the Philippines.

Hecker said 40 percent of the new loans would be focused on poverty alleviation programs in line with the bank's goal of ending poverty in Asia and the Pacific. He said the bank would sign in April a partnership agreement with the Macapagal administration on poverty reduction.

"The Philippines is more than just our home; it is one of our most important clients. We have over the years made 183 loans to the Philippines, totaling close to $8 billion, and we have provided more than $100 million worth of technical assistance," Hecker said.

"Last year we approved $470 million for new

ADB/ B3

BSP keeps interest rates unchanged

THE POLICY-MAKING Monetary Board yesterday decided to leave key overnight interest rates unchanged.

"No change for now. Our decision in the coming weeks would have to be based on our inflation numbers and must now take into account that the US won't do anything," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said yesterday.

The bank had kept its key overnight borrowing rate unchanged at 11 percent and the lending rate at 13.25 percent after the board's weekly meeting.

Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan on Wednesday sent a clear signal that more interest rates cuts were likely by saying the economy seemed to be on an excessively weak path, but he tempered Wall Street's hopes for immediate action.

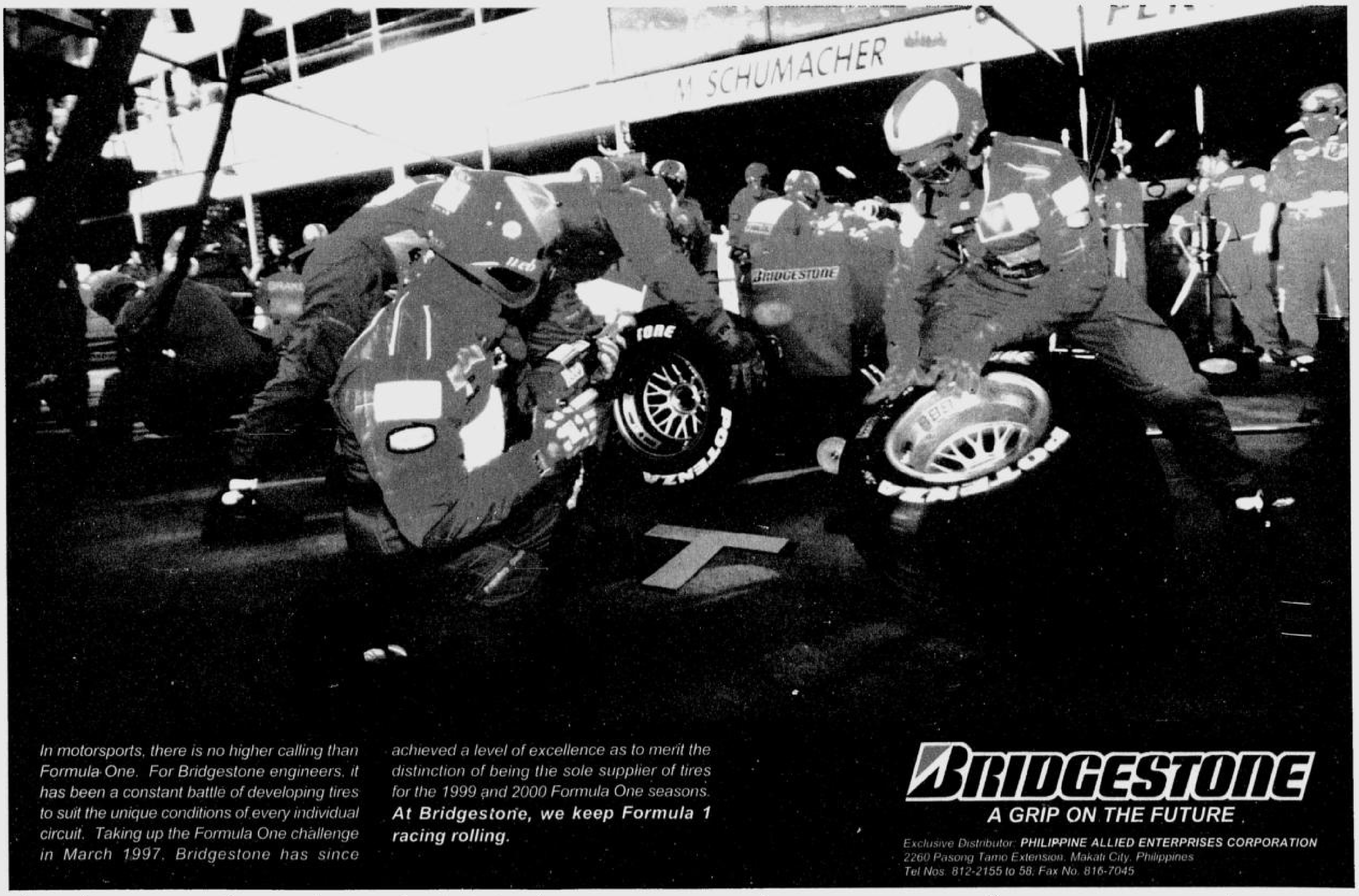
He indicated no cuts would be forthcoming before the Fed's FOMC meeting on March 20.

The Bangko Sentral often takes its cue on monetary policy from the United States.

The decision to keep interest rates unchanged also lessened the chances of a further drop in the government's borrowing rate as gleaned from the weekly auction of treasury bills every Monday.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said that without a BSP rate cut, the treasury bill yields would stay close to last Monday's auction results of 10.456 percent for 91-day, 11.783 percent for 182-day and 12.497 percent for the one-year debt papers.

The central bank governor said that a tame inflation and a controlled budget deficit level would give monetary authorities some "flexibility" in cutting rates further.



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Business says change in gov't gives RP new lifeline for growth

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BULLISH OUTLOOK JOAN BONDOC

Eugenio Lopez III welcomes President Macapagal-Arroyo to the Philippine Business Outlook 2001 forum at the Manila Peninsula as Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala and other prominent business executives look on.

TWO of the country's most prominent business groups—the Ayalas and Gokongweis—yesterday expressed their exuberance over the advent of a new business environment with the installation of a new government.

At a business forum sponsored by the Knowledge Institute, Ayala Corp. president and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala said: "The environment has completely changed. With an economist at the helm of government and business-friendly policies in place, business has the opportunity again to become expansive and innovative."

JG Summit Holdings Inc. executive vice president Lance Gokongwei said: "This change means a lot to business. We're moving from a wait-and-see mode to a more strategic business view of the economy. JG Summit is tripling its investments this year."

Gokongwei said the newfound confidence in the economy could be attributed to a clear-cut commitment of the government to good governance, transparency and level playing field.

"Opportunities are now open to any enterprise with the vision and ability to pursue them," said Gokongwei whose family had the foresight of shifting a chunk of its portfolio to Singapore prior to President Estrada's election into office.

Ayala said businessmen became defensive and speculative under the previous administration rather than expansive and innovative as it should be largely due to the lack of a level playing field that disfigured the business environment then. Ayala said that foreign investors would return in a big way to seize investment opportunities in the country just like the Philippine businessmen.

He said that some companies—both Filipino and foreign-owned—have already decided to activate their expansion programs. "At Ayala, we are accelerating our IT projects, and completing the implementation of our mergers and acquisitions in banking and telecommunications. We are also seeing our real estate projects come back to life."

He also noted that foreign interest in the local stock market has rebounded with estimated net inflows of $44 million in January and $21 million in the first three weeks of February. In contrast, short-term foreign equity investments declined to a negative $404 million from January to October last year from $430 during the same period in 1999.

For JG Summit, Gokongwei said the group sees major opportunities in tourism, outsourcing industries, electronics and service-based industries.

Ayala admitted that the question on the constitutionality of the takeover by the new administration might have dampened the popular euphoria over the event. But he added: "I believe there is no question that the change of government has served a new lifeline for Philippine economic recovery and growth."

JG earmarks $500M for expansion

JG SUMMIT Holdings Inc., the investment arm of taipan John Gokongwei, is investing $500 million to $600 million this year to expand its airline and telecommunication concerns.

JG Summit executive vice president Lance Gokongwei said this year's capital expenditure budget was triple the company's investments last year reflecting the group's bullishness on the economy.

Gokongwei said the group was gearing up its Cebu Pacific Airline for its possible designation as the country's second flag carrier this year. "We expect the government to act on our application to fly international routes within three to six months," Gokongwei said.

Gokongwei said JG Summit could only firm up its budget for the airline expansion after it has obtained the government's nod. He also declined to comment on whether the group was negotiating with a foreign airline to support its bid to fly overseas.

Although Cebu Pacific applied to serve all major international routes, Gokongwei said the company was particularly keen on flying to the US and Hong Kong.

Gokongwei said investments for the international operations would be on top of P19 billion budgeted for Cebu Air's refleeting program for its domestic operations. The company was planning to acquire 14 new aircraft to replace its current line of 12 DC-9s which would be used purely for cargo operations.

The Economic Mobilization Group has pushed for the immediate designation of Cebu Air as the country's second official carrier to break Philippine Airlines Inc.'s decades-long monopoly of international routes.

But while PAL downplayed Cebu Air's capability to fly international, Gokongwei said Cebu Air was technically and financially capable of being an international carrier.

Gokongwei is spending $300 million for the expansion of Digital Telecommunications Inc. into the competitive wireless business. Digitel's foreign partner is Canadian telecommunications supplier Nortel Networks. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

PLDT group profit down 64% last year

By Anthony O. Alcantara

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. has reported a 64-percent decline in its consolidated net income last year to P1.11 billion from P3.09 billion in 1999.

The profit decline was attributed to higher selling and promotional expenses for the company's cellular phone subsidiaries.

Smart Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp. have posted losses last year.

Smart's net income of P1.5 billion in the second half of 2000 was not enough to offset the P1.9-billion net loss registered in the first half. As of end-December, Smart registered a net loss of P400 million.

Piltel, for its part, recorded a net loss of P5.2 billion last year, which is 33.33-percent higher than the P3.9 billion profit loss in 1999.

PLDT absorbed approximately half of Piltel's loss.

The two cellular phone companies, however, ended 2000 with a combined subscriber base of more than 3.5 million. Both companies signed up more than 2.5 million new digital GSM subscribers last year.

PLDT president Manuel V. Pangilinan yesterday said in a press conference that 2001 would be a better year for the group with its cellular phone subsidiaries expected to start generating higher revenues after spending a lot on marketing and network expansion last year.

PLDT's consolidated revenues increased by 13 percent from P55.69 billion in 1999 to P62.9 billion in 2000. Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization increased slightly by 7 percent to P33.25 billion from P31.08 billion in 1999.

15 stockbrokers vying for 7 PSE board seats

FIFTEEN stockbrokers will vie for seven out of the 15 Philippine Stock Exchange board seats in the bourse's annual election on March 10.

Only seven seats are open for brokers as the majority of the board membership, or eight out of 15, is reserved for non-brokers as mandated by the new Securities Regulation Code.

The opposition slate led by Summit Securities president and former PSE chair Harry Liu is challenging the leadership of incumbent PSE chair Felipe Yap.

Yap is the standard-bearer of the slate composed of Francis Chua (BA Securities); Robert Coyiuto Jr. (R. Coyiuto Securities); Eddie Gobing (Lucky Securities); Gregorio Kilayko (ABN Amro Asia Securities); Federico Lim (Belson Securities Inc.), and Vivian Yuchengco (First Resources Management and Securities Corp.).

The Liu-led state is composed of Emmanuel Edward Co (Aurora Securities); Omar Cruz (Citicorp Securities International); Filomeno Francisco (AB Capital Securities); David Go (David Go Securities Corp.); Joseph Roxas (Eagle Equities), and Paulino Soo (Abacus Securities).

The 15th candidate, Juanita Cueto of Yaptinchay Securities Corp., is running as an independent candidate.

Also, three more new faces are expected to join the PSE board to replace former Finance Secretary Vicente Jayme, Land Bank of the Philippines president Margarito Teves and former Government Service and Insurance System president Federico Pascual who have recently tendered their resignation as PSE board members.

"We are presenting ourselves as the pro-active alternative. We want more discussions, more exchange of ideas. We feel Yap doesn't have enough time to commit to the exchange because he is busy with his other businesses," a member of the Liu camp said.

Yap sits as chair of the Lepanto group of companies and as director of various companies such as Guoco Holdings, Peninsula Manila Hotel Inc., Philippine Associated Smelting and Refining Corp., Centennial City Inc., South China Petroleum, Philippine Fire and Marine Insurance and Zeus Holdings Inc.

In last year's elections, Yap was the runaway winner, garnering the highest number of votes among the 20 official candidates and bagging seats for all but one of his 12-member slate. At that time, stockbrokers were still in control of the PSE board since only three seats were reserved for non-brokers.

Meantime, non-broker members of the PSE board who are still qualified for another term are PLDT president Manuel Pangilinan, Washington Sycip, Patricio Lim, Joaquin Bernas of the Ateneo de Manila University College of Law, and incumbent PSE president Ramon Garcia.

Among those being eyed for the vacant non-broker seats are economist and ADB alternate director Cayetano Paderanga, ABS CBN chair Eugenio Lopez III and Meralco president Mario Camacho. *Doris C. Dumlao*

RFM, Taiwan firm form joint venture

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOOD and beverage conglomerate RFM Corp. and the Uni-President group, the largest publicly owned food company in Taiwan, yesterday inked a P400-million joint venture in the food manufacturing business, a statement issued by RFM said.

The joint venture, which intends to manufacture instant noodles, will be 65 percent owned by Uni-President Enterprises and 35 percent by RFM.

RFM chair Jose Concepcion Jr., RFM president and CEO Jose Concepcion III, Uni-President vice chair and CEO Kao Chin-Yen, president and COO Lin Chang-Sheng and company president Hsieh signed the agreement in a ceremony witnessed by President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday.

Concepcion III said Uni-President's investment in the local instant noodle industry was a proof of the Taiwanese company's confidence in the Macapagal administration as well as its long-term commitment to the Philippine economy.

Bullish on the Philippines, the Uni-President group was the first foreign group to enter the newly liberalized local retail sector with its purchase of a majority stake in the 7-11 convenience store chain for P1 billion.

"We believe that Uni-President has the expertise and the right technology to further improve the quality of our instant noodle products and make them the best in the market," Concepcion III said, noting that discussions with the Taiwanese group took several months prior to the signing of the final agreement.

The instant noodles manufacturing plant will occupy a two-hectare area at RFM's Philtown Technology Park in Sto. Tomas-Tanauan, Batangas.

Aside from noodles manufacturing, the Uni-President group said it wanted to enter into the local beverage business. It said it wants no less than the majority control of any business it would pursue in the Philippines.

The Uni-President group had long wanted to invest in the country but the Asian financial crisis delayed its offshore expansion.

Aside from the Philippines, the Uni-President group has existing investments in Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia. It is planning to set up operations in Malaysia and is now the biggest Taiwanese investor in mainland China, with over 30 factories and 72,000 employees.

The group's President Chain Store, which bought into the Philippine Seven Corp., is Taiwan's pioneer in the C-store business. It is now Taiwan's leading retailer with over 2,500 stores serving over 730 million customers every year. It recorded an operating revenue of $1.6 billion in 1999.

While President Chain's core business is the convenience store, it has successfully diversified into other retailing formats. It operates Cosmed, a homegrown health and beauty chain of 50 stores, and President Coffee Corp., a joint venture with Starbucks US with 45 outlets in Taiwan. It recently went overseas through the opening of Starbucks in Shanghai.

ADB earmarks $1B in loans for RP projects

(From page B1)

projects and we have a pipeline program for the next three years of around $1 billion," he noted.

Hecker said one of the reasons for the opening of a Philippine country office was also to improve the disbursement of official development assistance. The bank has already slashed its annual loan allocation for the Philippines by about $100 million in view of the country's low absorptive capacity.

"Its record of project implementation is poor, with long delays in disbursement and utilization of funds, and worse-and-average records of project success," Hecker said.

He disclosed that of the $2.7 billion worth of outstanding ADB loans to the country, some $1.7 billion or more than 50 percent have yet to be disbursed.

In the same briefing, Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas noted that the absorptive capacity of the country for ODA loans has dropped to 60 percent during the Estrada administration from about 82 to 84 percent.

He said the two agencies under the National Economic Development Authority which are handling ODA loans—the Investment Coordinating Council and the Development Budget Coordination Committee—were currently reviewing the implementation of these loans to be able to bring back the absorptive capacity to healthier levels.

"We'll see if there's a possibility of downgrading or shutting down some projects," Canlas said.

"Today's priorities include development of Southern Philippines, where there is high incidence of poverty. Rural poverty in Mindanao will be addressed through development of infrastructure, strengthening transmission systems for rural electrification, microfinance and improved forest and coastal resources management to assist the development of poor upland and coastal communities," Hecker said.

Meanwhile, Hecker reiterated that the ADB was projecting a gross domestic product growth of 3 percent for the Philippines in 2001.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, March 1, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	3,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	105	105	105	105	340
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69.5	69.5	68	68.5	129,000
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	110
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	54.5	54.5	54	54	87,200
Global Business Bank Inc.	72	72	65	69.5	2,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	218	219	214	216	160,340
Philippine National Bank	46.5	46.5	43	44	415,900
Security Bank Corp.	23.75	23.75	23	23	9,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	26	24.75	24.75	50,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	4,000
Filipino Fund Inc	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	100,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	250	250	250	250	500
Manulife Financial Corp.	1250	1275	1250	1265	3,140
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	50,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1040	1040	1030	1035	12,230
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	47.5	47.5	47	47	46,100
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.61	0.62	1,660,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.047	0.047	0.046	0.046	600,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.5	5,000,000
Piltel	0.68	0.68	0.62	0.62	120,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	70,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	795	795	760	760	220,480
Ivantage Corp.	1.04	1.04	1	1	3,196,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.065	0.0675	0.0625	0.065	141,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	53	53	53	53	12,700
Manila Electric Co. B	62	62	60.5	61	1,276,900
Petron Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.74	1.74	5,805,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	111,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.24	1.26	1.18	1.18	9,696,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	1,100,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2	2	2	2	52,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	370,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.5	169,300
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	37	37	36.5	36.5	208,100
RFM Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.18	1.22	1,731,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48.5	49	48	49	28,200
San Miguel Corp. B	58	58	56.5	57.5	566,700
Universal Robina Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	42,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	160,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	10,000
Ayala Corp.	7.6	7.6	7.4	7.5	2,085,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.58	1.6	1.58	1.6	340,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.25	12.25	11.75	11.75	2,300
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.95	0.97	0.95	0.97	30,000
APC Group Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	1,150,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	38,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.65	2.65	133,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	2	2	2	2	21,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.37	0.37	0.31	0.31	80,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.235	0.22	0.235	290,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.05	3.1	4,202,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.18	0.185	60,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	350,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.34	1.36	3,549,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	60,000
First Phil. Hldgs Corp.	23.25	23.5	22.75	22.75	326,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	10,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	50,000
Ionics Inc.	13	13.25	12.75	13	27,500
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	2,470,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	10,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	300,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.86	0.88	1,110,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	60,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.57	2,710,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	30,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.36	0.36	730,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.44	30,010,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.29	490,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	30,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	1	1	1	1	1,000,000
Metro Alliance Holdings-B	0.98	1	0.98	1	1,510,000
Music Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.95	312,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	210,000
Pryce Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	1,000,000
Philtread Tire & Rubber A	5.5	6	5.5	6	18,000
Philtread Tire & Rubber B	5.9	6	5.9	6	15,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.75	211,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.59	1,530,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.62	0.64	39,800,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.64	0.65	0.64	0.65	250,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	16,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	48	48	47	47	139,600
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	500	500	495	495	57,270
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.85	3.85	3.7	3.7	374,000
Jollibee Warrants	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	12,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	85,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,800
Waterfront Phils.-Warrant	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	600,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	8,289,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	230,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	4,930,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.4	11,040,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	1,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.65	6,532,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	180,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.4	0.4	100,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.11	0.115	0.11	0.115	300,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.14	2.16	2,000,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.7	13,938,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.12	0.12	0.115	0.115	380,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	10,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	3	3	2.9	3	11,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	400,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	120,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	10,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0044	0.0042	0.0044	51,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	8,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0046	0.0048	0.0046	0.0046	33,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.3	0.3	0.25	0.25	50,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.22	3,000,000
Pacifica	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	28,500,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	600,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	50,000

Disclosures

GLOBE Telecom Inc. signed a sale and purchase agreement with Visay-Tech Inc. for the latter's 10.3 million shares in Asiacom Phils. Inc.

* * *

METRO Alliance Holdings & Equities Corp. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from May to June 29 with the record date on June 1.

* * *

MEGAWORLD Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 20, 9 a.m. at the Eastwood City Information Center, Quezon City. Stockholders of record as of March 19 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

VICTORIAS Milling Co. Inc. announced the resignation of Eduardo Lim Jr. as member of the company's board of directors.

* * *

FIRST Metro Investment Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 24, 4 p.m. at the 3/F of Metrobank Plaza, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of March 8 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

WATERFRONT Phils. Inc. announced the resignation of Sherwin Gatchalian as director and vice chair of the company. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

Best view in town

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

FOR the struggling middle classes who still dream of a condo unit with an Ayala ridge or Rockwell address, the next best thing to momentarily live the dream is to wangle an invitation to the dream destination.

Except for sizes, the top-of-the-market units are basically the same bananas, even in pricing and luxury amenities. What sets them apart from each other is, to quote Dillard, location, location, location.

Those who prefer walking distance to the Makati business district naturally gravitate to the Makati condos.

But for those who put a stronger premium on greenery and view, nothing beats the Fort Boni condominiums. And of the half a dozen condos lined up along the Boni-Forbes ridge, nothing beats the view and the greenery of the Pacific Plaza Towers.

Instead of concrete and cement, trees and cascading waters greet residents and visitors every time they step into the lobby, thanks to the visual trick of glass walls that look out into the park and the expansive Manila Golf course beyond.

The park view is both astounding and refreshing, specially to those accustomed to the gridlock and the urban grime that have befallen most of Metro Manila.

"As if we are not in Manila" is not an uncommon remark for first-time visitors, specially as they go up to the higher floors.

There, crowned against the greens of the golf course and the polo club, is the shimmering Makati skyline and the Manila Bay beyond, in full, 180-degree expanse. Given the aspiring skyscrapers and green belt below, one could even be forgiven if New York's Central Park comes into mind.

As sunset approaches, the view turns positively dramatic, as the orange fireball slowly sinks into the watery horizon.

This paradise comes at a price, starting at P28.4 million cash for the lower floor units. Except for the penthouses, all the units have identical floor plan and size, 300-square meters/ three-bedroom affairs, and two parking slots each thrown in.

An extra parking slot alone already costs P880,000, roughly a year's salary of a Bangko Sentral managing director.

Monthly association dues—to cover janitorial, security, and administrative services—are currently pegged at P60/ sq.m., or about P18,000/unit.

(Tip: Those who have middle-class budgets but desire to be neighbors with Pacific Plaza Towers in the same cul-de-sac, the Comunidades condo, for units half or a third of the Pacific Plaza sizes, offers the same unobstructed view of the Manila Golf and Manila Polo greeneries and the Makati skyline.)

Short takes

- ABS-CBN has pirated two key news department personnel of GMA-7, namely, Gin de Mesa and David Jude Sta. Ana.

De Mesa occupies a new position, director for strategic planning, while at the same time serving as chief of staff of ABS-CBN president Freddie Garcia.

Sta. Ana, on the other hand, has been appointed director for news gathering.

- LONG before the mad cow scare hit the country, Rustan's and sister supermarket Shopwise have stopped sourcing their beef requirements from Europe, shifting their orders to the United States and Australia despite their higher prices.

A Rustans official said the supermarket chain had to stick to the painful decision despite sales registering a 30 percent drop on account of the double whammy of peso devaluation and higher US and Australian beef prices.

- JUST like California, Guam, where the biggest non-native residents are Filipinos, is experiencing six-to-eight hour power outages. To think that many Filipinos there fled the Philippines to escape the crippling daily brownouts not so long ago.

Heard through the grapevine

DEUTSCHE Bank country officer Jose Isidro Camacho, contrary to the previously announced offer of DBP chairmanship, is getting the energy department portfolio instead.

Camacho's Cabinet appointment was only firmed up the other night after consultations with Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo and President Macapagal-Arroyo.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com)

Asean countries fear investment flow to China

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE IMMINENT ascension of China into the World Trade Organization is causing shivers among Asean member-countries, which are getting a fast shrinking share of foreign investments pouring into Asia.

In his presentation during the Knowledge Institute's forum on Philippine business outlook, Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said preliminary data on investments in Asia last year showed "China is sucking out the investments that should have gone to Asean."

Roxas said that this was understandable considering that China offered investors a huge potential market with its population of one billion. "It is important that we in Asean move forward with the implementation of Afta (Asean Free Trade Area) in order to compete with China in attracting foreign investments," Roxas said.

Roxas said that by operating as a trading bloc instead of an isolated market, Asean could offer foreign investors with a potential market of 500 million people.

This was why Roxas said he was urging his peers in Asean to rush the groundwork for the implementation of Afta. "We should adopt uniform standards and rules on the production and trading of our products such as food to attract investors," Roxas said.

But not all Asean members share Roxas' view of the importance of Afta in enhancing the attractiveness of the region. Some Asean members have actually pushed for a delay in the liberalization of key items, particularly automotive, citing the need for a longer transition period due to the lingering effects of the 1997 regional financial crisis. Asean member countries can delay or suspend their tariff reduction commitments to enable their domestic industries cope with their economic troubles before opening up their markets to competition from its neighbors.

Roxas said the Philippines should not see China as a competitor for investments and exports but as a potential market. "We cannot stop the wave that is China but we can create breakwaters that can allow us to gain from this market," Roxas said.

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ERNESTO "GATS" V. SANTOS

July 25, 1917 - February 28, 2001

Peacefully joined his Creator on February 28, 2001 at the age of 83.

His loving wife **Tessie Revilla**; CHILDREN **Tina** and **Gary**, **Ricky** and **Maripi**, **Cecile** and **Michael**, **Eddieboy** and **Chini**, **Ditas**, **Joji** and **Jeg**, **Manolet** and **Michele**; 17 GRANDCHILDREN, **auntie Pilar Goyena**; IN-LAWS **Pingoy** and **Paquita Revilla**, **Vicente** and **Vicky Revilla**; NEPHEWS **Rene** and **Oscar Angeles** and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Christ the King Parish Church, Greenmeadows Avenue, Quezon City. Cremation will be on Sunday, March 4, 2001, 2 p.m. at La Funeraria Paz Crematory.

Elinor Perez-Roberts Avila

February 4, 1919 - February 27, 2001
of Tanauan, Leyte & San Francisco, California, U.S.A.

Joined her Creator, husband Eugenio, and her children Olga, Carolyn, and Eugene at the age of 82.

Her brother **Frank H. Roberts**; her children **Charlie, Nora, Richie, Geline** and their spouses, her grandchildren and their spouses, and her great grandchildren wish to say *"Thank you Mama for everything, and our love goes with you to the great beyond"*.

Funeral Mass will be at St. Patrick's Parish, San Francisco at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, March 3rd. Interment will be on Monday, March 5th at Duggan's Westlake, Daly City.

"Whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:10

SERAFINA M. DALMAN

Born on November 14, 1919
Died on February 28, 2001

Husband	**Judge Manuel D. Dalman**
Children	**Nora** and **Ismael Holipas** **Emmanuel "Nonoy"** and **Marivic Dalman** **Caesar** and **Connie Dalman** **Ferdinand Dalman** **Sonia** and **Ola Madsen** **Clarie** and **Bornie Sia**
Grandchildren	**Norita, April, Chrissie, Ryan, John Eric, Patrick, Susan, Jason, Brylle, Celeste** and **Carissa.**

Her remains lie in state at the Claret Church, U.P. Village, Quezon City and will be transferred to Dipolog City on March 2, 2001.

Interment will be announced later.

"Without that total, sensitive, awareness
Would knowing bring about true understanding?
Oh, but for a drop of kindness
To soften and solve this sadness."
—From Raquel's poem, 1976

RAQUEL EDRALIN-TIGLAO

Wife, Mother, Friend, Comrade

Bade goodbye to this world 28 February 2001

Her husband **Rigoberto**, daughter **Andrea Raquel**, sons **Alexandro Kalayaan** and **Ben Siddharta**;

Her father **Leo Edralin** and departed mother **Teresa**; brothers **Arturo, Ferdinand,** and **Raul**; her sisters **Sylvia, Mila,** and **Agnes**; sister-in-law **Theresa**; nieces **Zarah, Camille,** and **Monica**; her nephew **Leomar**; and her beloved relatives;

Her many friends and comrades will forever love her and keep her memory in their hearts.

Raquel's remains are at the U.P. Chapel, Diliman, Q.C. until Sunday afternoon.

The Board and staff
of the
Women's Crisis Center (Manila)

condole with the family of

Raquel Edralin-Tiglao

Compassionate Activist, Friend, and Feminist
WCC Executive Director, 1989-2000

Who passed away on Wednesday, 28 February 2001

Rock's passing is an irreparable loss not only to her family but also to the world community of advocates for the prevention and elimination of violence against women. She touched and inspired the lives of both people who devoted their lives to social change and those who were victims of social injustice.

In her memory, the WCC has set up the **Raquel Edralin-Tiglao Resource and Training Institute on Family Violence Prevention** to continue her valuable work.

Rock had requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Survivors' Support Group of the Women's Crisis Center (Tel: 922-5235/926-7744).

RUSTICO MEDRANA OLFATO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on February 28, 2001 at the age of 72.

His beloved wife **Cipriana**; children **Alex** and **Rosemarie**, **Danilo** and **Anneli**, **Amelia** and **Jaime**; grandchildren **Alex Gian II**, **Alex Guido III**, **Dan Justin**, **Ana Gesela**, **Jeah Erika**, **Jamella Kim**, and **James Amiel**; brother **Angel**; sister **Marcelina**; sister-in-law **Prudencia**; and brother-in-law **Leonardo** (†); nephews and nieces and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 72 Tapia Subdivision, Barangay VI, Tanauan, Batangas.

Interment will be on Sunday, March 4, 2001 at Himlayan sa Tanauan, Sambat, Tanauan, Batangas after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at St. John The Evangelist Parish Church.

RODELIO "Totong" S.A. LOPEZ

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 27, 2001 at the age of 53.

Prayers for the eternal repose of his soul are requested by his loving wife **LUCHI**; children **ALLAN, AURORA** and **ANNALIZA**; mother **MAGDALENA S.A. LOPEZ**; brothers **ENCIO, ANDRESITO, LITO** and **MARIO**; sisters **NONING, LITA** and **TESSIE**; sisters-in-law **LILY** and **ANGEL**, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at #4 Madrid St., Greenland Subdivision, Nangka, Marikina City. Interment will be at Paraiso Memorial Park, San Mateo Rizal on March 3, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the San Isidro Labrador Church.

The family of the late

EMILIO DINPAO

who passed away on February 26, 2001 at the age of 42.

wishes to inform relatives and friends that
his body lies in state at Chapel V,
La Funeraria Paz, Inc., C.M. Recto, Manila.
Cremation will be on Sunday,
March 4, 2001, 10:00 a.m
at the Chinese Crematorium.

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ERLINDA SANTIAGO MERCADO

Joined her Creator on January 6, 2001 at the age of 62 in Mount Sinai Hospital, Manhattan, New York, U.S.A.

Her mortal remains has been cremated, Her loving husband **Teresito Mercado**; son **Dennis**; brother & sisters **Ben, Rebecca & Tess** and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

A gathering of relatives and friends has been arranged on March 4, 2001 at Panginay, Balagtas, Bulacan to be capped by the celebration of the Holy Mass at 2:00 p.m. in Endless Love Cemetery, Guiguinto, Bulacan.

Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again.

2 Cor. 4:14

OBITUARIES

Coming Home

Timoteo L. Roquim, Jr.

(Fondly known as Tim)
is finally home.

Tim was diagnosed of ARDS (Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome) in January 2001. He put upon amazing battle against the disease, with Love and Support from his entire family for almost 2 months and finally succumbed to the disease on February 24, 2001 at St. John's Queens Hospital, in New York

Tim is survived by his wife Lolita (Baby) Roquim; his children Jojo and Christine, Boyet and Tess, Joel and Ivy, Joseph and Toni Rose, Jacque and Joy; his grandchildren Jenny, Hannah, Sam, Bing-Bing, Lolla Marie, Gretl and Hazel; and her brothers and sisters.

Tim's cremains will arrive in Manila on March 3,2001 and will be at Arlington Memorial Chapel, Araneta Avenue. Quezon City. There will be a mass on March 6,2001-3 p.m. at Arlington Memorial Chapel.

"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raised us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God."

2 Cor. 4:14

---

*We thank God for giving
us a father as him.*

Atty. Rafael S. Lucila

*Peacefully joined his Creator on February 26, 2001
at the age of 92.*

We, his loving family—wife **MA. CLARA**; children and in-laws **DANNY-LETTY, MELINDA-JONATHAN, RALPH JR.-GIRLIE, MARIAN-VIC, BOBBY-MARIS, ROMMEL-MADELLE**; his grandchildren **Joanne, Marlo, Tamsin, Amanda, Roberto II, Richard, Therese, Michaelangelo, Justine, Ana, Noelle, Vince, Christi, Andrew** and **Angeli** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal rest of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Ilawod, Camalig, Albay.

Interment will be at Camalig Catholic Cemetery (La Felicidad), Camalig Albay on March 4, 2001 at 1:00 PM.

The Lawyers & Staff of

Belo Gozon Parel Asuncion & Lucila Law Office

condole with the family of

Atty. Rafael S. Lucila

*who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on February 26, 2001 at the age of 92.*

Atty. Lucila is the father of **Roberto Rafael V. Lucila**,
a Senior Partner of Belo Gozon Parel Asuncion
and Lucila Law Office

His remains lie in state at Ilawod, Camalig, Albay.

Interment will be at Camalig Catholic Cemetery
(La Felicidad), Camalig, Albay on March 4, 2001 at 1:00 PM.

We extend our condolences to his family and loved ones
and join the pious readers in praying for
the eternal repose of his soul.

Hon. OSCAR LUZ LAZO, Sr.

**of Sto. Niño, Cagayan
1971 Constitutional Convention Delegate
A Lawyer and a Poet**

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 26, 2001 at the age of 81.

His bereaved wife **BENITA**; children **CHET** and **BETH**, **CARY** and **GIRLIE**, **AUDIE** and **MARIE**, **CHARLIE** and **ALICE**, **TONY** and **GEE**, **CHELETTE** and **JOE**; his grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Chapel E, EDSA, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be held at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City on Saturday, March 3, 2001 after the 7:00 a.m. Mass.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."

2 Cor. 5:4-5

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*"She gave herself totally to her God,
her family, her friends and others whose lives
she sought to touch...*

Rosemarie Molina Cabrera

(Rose or Rosing)

of the Jesuit Volunteer Foundation of the Philippines
*has left on her final journey to the
house of her Father
last Wednesday, 28 February 2001,
at the age of 33.*

Her parents **Fe** and **Hermie Cabrera**,
brothers and sisters
**Teresa, Martin & Len, Angelo & Tec,
Ramon & Maricar, Lourdes & Richie,
Cecilia & Eliboy, Agnes & Jun,
Fr. Bogey, Margaret,**
and nephews & nieces **Didi, AA, JJ, MM, JC, JL, JM, JH, JT,
Paulo, Mikko, Andre, Angeli, Carlo, Daniel, Kina, Joshua,
Aaron, Naomi, Ivana,** and **Julian**, and **Alana**,

request for prayers to help her reach the heavenly kingdom
of her Creator.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapel,
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Avenue, Pasig City.
Early Sunday morning, the 3rd of March 2001, her body
will be brought to the Ateneo College Chapel for a 7:00 a.m.
funeral Mass. Thereafter interment will follow at the
Loyola Memorial Park Marikina.

Maria "Mary" Reyes Manding

(October 22, 1918 - February 24, 2001)

passed away at the age of 82 in New York, USA.

Her bereaved husband **Jose**; her children **Evelyn**, **Yolanda** and **Ernesto Albano**, **Valentino**, and **Marilyn** and **Mario Poirier**; her grandchildren **Johann**, **Jonathan**, **Paul**, **Brian** and **Mirabel**, and her niece **Olivia Ang** request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her cremated remains will be at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish Memorial Chapels (Chapel 1) in Magallanes Village starting at noon on Saturday, March 3, 2001.

Interment will be on Sunday, March 4, 2001 at the Risen Christ Memorial Garden located within the Parish grounds immediately following a 1:00 p.m. Mass.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

CLASSIFIEDS

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Maunsell Philippines Inc. is the lead Consultant for a planned new greenfield project. We are seeking Registration of Interest (ROI) from companies and organizations with the experience and resources to undertake the role of **Main Contractor** to manage and carry out all of the construction including building, civil, electrical and mechanical works. Based on the information submitted by interested parties, a short list of pre-qualified tenderers will be selected to receive bid documents in Second Quarter 2001. Only companies capable of constructing to international standards will be considered for the short-list.

The proposed facilities will include a production facility (built to food processing standards) of approx. 46,000m2, two-story administration building, canteen, security centre, central plant building, workshop, sewage and water treatment plants, ancillary buildings, roads, carparks, fences, earthworks and landscaping.

Interested parties may obtain pre-qualification inquiry documents from the reception desk at:

**Maunsell Philippines, Inc.
8th Floor, JAKA 6780 Building
6780 Ayala Avenue, Makati City**

Registration of interest documents must be received at the above address no later than 17:00 hours on Monday, 12 March 2001.

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**Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
Philippine Coast Guard - Project Management Office
MARITIME SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - III**

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

CONSTRUCTION OF FOUNDATIONS; ERECTION OF TOWERS; INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING LIGHTNING PROTECTION SYSTEMS; AND, COMMISSIONING OF TWENTY FIVE (25) LIGHTHOUSES IN VARIOUS SITES, COVERED BY MARITIME SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, PHASE III (MSIP III)

The Department of Transportation and Communications - Philippine Coast Guard - Project Management Office (DOTC PCG-PMO) is inviting General Contractors for the aforementioned Project.

The scope of works cover civil; tower erection; electrical installation; and other miscellaneous works to complete the Project. Prospective bidders should have valid license and classification issued by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB), with the following particulars :

Category and Classification	IAC Registration
Category: "A" Classification: General Engineering	Range: At least Medium "B" Kind of Project: Ports, Harbor & Offshore Engineering

The Instruction to Bidders; Bid Forms; General Conditions; Technical Specifications; Plans and Drawings shall be available for issuance to interested bidders from March 2-7, 2001 at 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the PCG-PMO Office, 2F S&L Bldg., 1500 Roxas Blvd. Cor. R. Salas St., Ermita, Manila with telephone no. 525-8843, upon presentation of original valid license and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (PHP 5,000.00) at the Cashier's Office, DOTC Main, 5th Floor Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City.

The deadline for submission of the duly accomplished documents shall be on 21 March 2001, 10:00 AM at PCG-PMO Office and a Pre-bid Conference is scheduled on 07 March 2001 at the same time and place.

The PCG-PMO reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **COMMO REUBEN S. LISTA**
*Commandant, PCG and
Director, PCG-PMO*

(PDI--Feb. 27, 28 & March 2, 2001)

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Surviving Pinatubo, picture frame maker finds cash in ash

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SUCCESS STORY

ROSSANO Osi just got his ceramics manufacturing business started when his house, factory and other possessions were wiped out when Mt. Pinatubo erupted in 1991. Lahar and floodwaters that cascaded down the volcano's slopes erased hometown Porac. He could have easily given in to self-pity and his sense of loss but instead, he believed there was something else he could do to translate the disaster into a golden opportunity.

Osi decided to make use of the very same material that took away nearly everything he owned: lahar, a mixture of volcanic ash, mud and debris. He took advantage of his knowledge in ceramics manufacturing and came up with "Excel Frames and Decors," which produced unique handcrafted picture frames, religious items and decors made almost entirely from Mt. Pinatubo ash.

"I am an optimist by nature so I thought of making use of this abundant material, and we were able to produce quality materials that are accepted here and abroad. Sometimes you have to bump your head against the wall before you realize that you can do something good," Osi said.

He even adopted the company slogan that it was during the worst of times that the best traits of the Filipinos shone through.

These ideal Filipino traits are exhibited in every frame or decorative item produced by Excel frames. The company started producing only a few frames that were used for wedding gifts and corporate giveaways, but the line eventually expanded to include 900 classic designs by its 11th year.

Excel currently produces between 8,000 and 10,000 decor items a month from its manufacturing facilities in Quezon City and Pampanga. The selling price of these items range from P60 to as much as P2,000 apiece.

Osi said Excel's products were initially sold only in markets abroad, including the United States, Germany, Italy, France and Canada. It was less than three years ago when he decided to give the local market a try so that his countrymen could get the opportunity to purchase world-class quality items that they could afford.

Osi attributed the warm market reception to Excel's products primarily to the raw materials used since foreign markets put a premium on products that used recycled or environment-friendly materials.

"Mt. Pinatubo ash is unique and it appeals to the European and American markets. They also like it because it is unique to the Philippines," Osi said.

Osi, however, emphasized that the high standard of quality was what kept these foreign buyers coming back and renewing orders for the past 11 years.

Osi, a BS Public Health graduate from UP Manila, personally supervises quality control just to make sure that company standards are met.

"My attention to detail is really there. Maybe my being a medical technologist has something to do with it because we are trained to use instruments if we cannot check everything using our naked eye. It really helped," Osi said.

Excel Frames employs 12 full-time staff to do quality control. Items are checked one by one, not through random sampling.

"I believe that the staff are also motivated to do a good job and produce quality items because they are regular employees. I don't have any contractual employees because I feel that they have a sense of ownership and will continue to produce beautiful products if they are regular employees," he said.

Excel Frame's attention to detail paid off as it had received a number of prestigious awards that testified to the world-class quality of its products.

Excel Frames was the first Filipino exporter, for instance, to bag the "Arch of Europe-Gold Star Award" in 1999 for excellence in quality and corporate image. It was also given Europe's Seal of World Class Quality.

This year, Excel Frames is set to receive two more awards for quality and excellence. One will be given this July in New York during the 15th International Quality Summit Awards and the other in October on the 26th International Star Award for Quality in Geneva.

"I think what makes us stand out in the market is our commitment to excellence. This made us turn a tragedy into a lucrative business," Osi said.

SAMPLES from Excel Frames and Decors

Memo to Secretary Roco: DECS' deductions

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

CONGRATULATIONS, Raul. Your first major salvo in DECS, re: the highly unconscionable salary deductions from teachers' salaries, have earned you high points of acclaim among teachers and non-teaching staff nationwide. We of the civil society are sending you kudos for starting right. If you go on fighting for the right issues, I am afraid you won't last long in DECS. You will end up being president of this country. And I simply will be very happy for the teachers if you'll finally achieve your dream. You see, I've been watching you from a distance since my SMC days and was always rallying teachers in Cebu to support you in every electoral battle you fought.

Your advocacy for teachers is a path not really less taken. In fact, politicians before had promised many things for our mentors and some of them were sincere. But, as always, they blamed lack of budget. Now, the fight you are starting on undue deductions does not need a budget. What is needed is political will and courage. Just be careful. You see, you are hurting the pockets of big-time usurers who have enriched themselves using DECS as their collector. Just watch your back. Your real enemies are just around. And I don't want my favorite presidentiable to get hurt.

Evils of deductions

The "unkindest cut of all" acts of inhumanity to teachers is not really just low salary but DECS' propensity to deduct at the slightest caprice. In SMC, we used to have a policy not to allow salary deductions that would reduce take-home pay to less than half of gross. Even if there was an authorization from the employee, management still protected the personnel against their own acts of naivete. Of course, DECS and SMC are worlds apart, as Undersecretary Ernie Pangan would remind us, but can you imagine public school teachers earning less than a-third of an SMC clerk. How then can you teach law in a grand fashion and mentor the youth to become a Raul Roco of the next generation?

Deductions are cruel, if not inhuman. They take away food from the mouth of teachers' children. They take away education, medicine, clothing and decent shelter from them. Your teachers are living in squatter areas. Their kids are in dilapidated classrooms. The GSIS deductions are excessive. Their Philhealth deductions are a great burden. Their Pag-IBIG is not only compulsory, it is *"pag-ibig na walang pagmamahal."* Then you add the Red Cross, the Boys and Girls Scouts. They have to feed and wine the supervisors and superintendents when they come visiting and demanding for clean toilets and beautiful classrooms. The teachers are exploited to do election duties, census, health, community work. They are pressured from all sides.

Institutionalized usury

Now, in the face of utter penury, teachers are forced to go to usurers. They pledge their future salaries at two-thirds their value if only to buy their promotions or cater to the caprice of the principal. Thus, they have to beg or borrow from usurers parading under the respectable name of lending agencies who are allegedly protected by DECS. As a matter of fact, DECS makes sure that they are paid on time at fantastic interest rates via the creative scheme of salary deduction.

These usurers take advantage of the teachers' utter helplessness. With the indispensable cooperation of DECS officials and staff, they exact their pound of flesh from teachers who end up with negative pay slips and then they have to borrow again. That goes on in vicious circles. So, Raul, you started well by denouncing these shenanigans. Indeed, I have discerned in you a rare gift of quick wisdom in knowing the most critical things, a quality of true leaders. You have conveyed to both DECS insiders and the general public the kind of legacy you're going to leave in that much maligned agency.

We need your brand of anger

In the same fashion that you shouted at another Raul for his impertinence in the impeachment trial, we need the same burning passion to cut down at the irrelevance of DECS priorities and tyranny to teachers. In the same courage that you tangled with your friends Miriam and JPE and debated with biting sarcasm with the defense lawyers, we need you to hurl strong words against the "scribes and Pharisees" at DECS. We call on you to cast away the evil of money changers and callous merchants who transform the temple of learning into a den of greed.

Raul, we need you to get angry at how textbooks are priced and overpriced. We need you to watch the bidding for desks, teachers' uniforms and school buildings. We need you to get agitated by hundreds who make millions out of DECS' budget at the expense of teachers whose pay cannot be raised because a large chunk of the pie goes to contractors, suppliers and their middlemen. We need your anger to drive away the abuses, the corruption, the lack of customer-orientation and the discourtesies that teachers suffer at the hands of DECS officials and staff.

Why Roco cares?

Why do you care, Raul? What is a teacher that you value her? Why do you know the pain of a teacher who can't do his job well because his family can't have enough food, decent clothing or respectable shelter? Why do you feel the anguish of one whose pay check is reduced and he has no one to explain or to commiserate with? Why are you angry that no one in DECS cares to give the answer?

I know all these, Raul, because like Chief Justice Davide, my parents were teachers in Cebu for 40 years each. They retired broken hearted after decades being overworked, underpaid and harassed by DECS. Now, they are rewarded with a measly pension released at erratic unpredictability. But there is joy in their faces when I told them about you and Usec Ernie P. And they will love to live long to vote for you as president. You know very well Raul that teachers are essentially loyal and sincere. They are also sentimental. And you've brought hopes into their hearts. Thanks and God bless, and be careful, Raul.

For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph

Napocor's budget gap to hit ₱33B next year

By Ronnel W. Domingo

DEBT-RIDDEN and cash-strapped National Power Corp.'s deficit is expected to reach P32.6 billion in 2002, triple this year's projection of P10.5 billion.

The state-run power firm also sees a P17.3-billion debt service gap in 2002, up from 2001's P13.2 billion. Napocor said it would not be able to raise these amounts from its internal cash generation.

Napocor is paying debts amounting to P42.1 billion this year.

Napocor is setting aside P30.3 billion to cover its capital expenditures next year, P15.44 billion of which will come from foreign borrowings. Its capex for this year is P20.9 billion.

In a related matter, three foreign investment firms have offered to raise about P2 billion to help Napocor cover P22 billion it needs to continue operating this year.

Napocor president Jesus Alcordo told reporters that JP Morgan Chase & Co. Inc., Lehman Brothers and Citibank NA proposed to arrange a bond float to raise the amount.

Alcordo said it would be payable in three to five years with an interest of 11 to 15 percent.

On the other hand, Asian Development Bank said earlier it would no longer extend loans to Napocor until measures reforming the local energy sector are enacted.

In a letter to the Department of Finance, ADB country director Gunther Hecker said the ADB decided to suspend all financial assistance to Napocor.

The ADB also said it would not release the first tranche of a $100-million government loan for a rural electrification program until the power bill was passed.

The government aims to complete electrification of 90,708 barangays by 2004. For this, the government needs P14.5 billion in investments to expand transmission facilities and add new power generators.

Arroyo renews Hizon appointment to ETPI

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has renewed the appointment of Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc. president and chief executive Salvador Hizon as government representative to the board of directors of the international gateway operator.

Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino Cruz Jr. was quoted by Palace sources as disclosing that Ms Macapagal was set to convey to the Presidential Commission on Good Government "her desire for Hizon to keep the ETPI seat and his present executive position."

Palace sources added that Ms Macapagal's preference for Hizon was based on his track record in the PCGG during the time of President Corazon Aquino.

Hizon was tapped to serve in the PCGG by former Senate President Jovito Salonga. Hizon took an active part in the investigation of the Marcos hidden wealth cases.

The government still holds on to some 30 percent of ETPI shares.

It acquired approximately 9.8 percent following a compromise deal with the Benedicto family.

About 20 percent of the company's shares associated with the Africa family remain sequestered.

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Greenspan signals further interest rate cuts

WASHINGTON—Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan sent a clear signal Wednesday that more interest rates cuts were likely by saying the US economy seemed to be on an excessively weak path, but he tempered Wall Street's hopes for immediate action.

Greenspan said the economy did not look as weak in the first two months of this year as it did in late 2000 and stressed the Fed's preference for acting at scheduled meetings, hinting to financial markets the central bank would probably wait until its next meeting on March 20 to cut rates again.

"We have obviously specified implicitly that we prefer to act within our scheduled meetings," Greenspan told lawmakers on the House financial services committee during the second leg of his twice-yearly monetary policy testimony.

"But we have also shown over the years that when we perceive that actions are required between meetings, we have never hesitated to move," he added.

Earlier this week, news that Greenspan would take the unusual step of changing testimony that he delivered to a Senate panel Feb. 13 fanned investor speculation that he would hint at an inter-meeting rate cut.

But analysts said he instead appeared to be trying to shoot down speculation that another move was imminent.

Stocks tumbled. The Nasdaq composite index, dominated by technology stocks, at one point fell to 2,127.5, its lowest level since late 1998.

"He threw a big bucket of ice water on the stock market," said Lehman Brothers economist Ethan Harris.

However, the Nasdaq closed above the day's low at 2,152, down 2.54 percent. The blue-chip Dow Jones industrial average ended down 1.33 percent while US Treasuries closed higher.

Warnings and cautious optimism

The modified portions of Greenspan's testimony contained both warnings and cautious optimism about the economy.

In a clear indication more rates cuts could be expected, he soberly acknowledged that the economy looked headed for a dismal performance even after the Fed lowered rates by a total of a full percentage point in two moves on Jan. 3 and Jan. 31.

"The economy appears to be on a track well below the productivity-enhanced rate of growth of its potential and, even after the policy actions we took in January, the risks continue skewed toward the economy's remaining on a path inconsistent with satisfactory economic performance," Greenspan said.

The two rate cuts in January brought the key federal funds rate on overnight bank lending down to 5.5 percent and wiped out all of the Fed rate hikes in 2000.

A new Reuters poll of leading Wall Street firms on Wednesday found that 23 of 25 primary dealers of US government securities expected another half-point rate cut on March 20. The remaining two see a quarter-point reduction.

In one addition to his testimony, Greenspan offered balm to those worried about a recession, saying the dramatic slowdown of late 2000 was "less evident" in January and February and that the retrenchment of the US economy could be "limited."

The government on Wednesday revised down its estimate of fourth-quarter gross domestic product growth to an annual pace of 1.1 percent, the slowest rate since the spring of 1995.

"Obviously, if the forces contributing to long-term productivity growth remain intact, the degree of retrenchment will presumably be limited," Greenspan said. He added that he expected strong productivity growth to continue and this should bolster both consumption and investment.

Analysts said the Fed chief also hinted swift rate cuts were less likely when he downplayed the recent impact that sagging consumer confidence and weak stocks had on spending. *Reuters*

Malaysia enforces 7-year ban on new foreign banks

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia will not allow more foreign banks to set up shop for another seven years, part of a 10-year master plan to strengthen a financial sector still recovering from the Asian economic crisis.

The move gave the government time to rebuild local banks, which were forced to merge from the 55 financial institutions that existed before the crisis erupted in 1997 to just 10 now, each led by an anchor bank. Some analysts say even 10 major banks are too many for Malaysia.

The financial sector master plan,, released by Finance Minister Daim Zainuddin, will also relax the limit of foreign equity for new insurance companies by 2010. New foreign shareholders are currently limited to a 30-percent stake, while original foreign shareholders can hold 51 percent.

Financial markets had hoped for a shorter period in both industries given ongoing consolidation in the financial sector. The Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange's benchmark composite index fell 1.1 percent to 701.68 during the morning session.

Zeti Akhtar Aziz, governor of the central bank, said Malaysia would allow merchant banks, stockbroking companies and discount houses that were under the same corporate group to merge to become full-fledged investment banks.

The central bank would enforce existing rules on shareholding limits in banking institutions, requiring violators to divest, Zeti said. Banking laws limit corporations to a maximum 20-percent stake, while individuals were held to 10 percent.

The plan was in line with analysts' expectations that Malaysia would make no dramatic moves to surrender local ownership of banks and insurance firms, which were seen by many officials as vital national interests.

Malaysia is required to ease rules on foreign participation in its financial sector by 2003 according to World Trade Organization rules.

The economy has recovered significantly from the recession triggered by the 1997-98 regional financial crisis, with the government announcing Wednesday that gross domestic product grew 8.5 percent in 2000. *AP*

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- Feb. 27 - March 26 Lower Ground Floor, SM Cebu
- March 1 - 7 Upper Ground Level Bldg. B, SM Megamall
- March 12 - 25 Ground Level, Park Square Makati

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Deadline for submission of documents will be on **March 15, 2001**. For more details contact tel. no. **(082) 296-0784** or **(082) 296-1580, Office of the Chair of the Search Committee c/o Commission on Higher Education Region XI, 318 Calachuchi Street, Juna Subdivision, Matina, Davao City** or the Board Secretary of Davao del Norte State College with tel. no. **(084) 628-4301**.

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ELIAS C. CUSI has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs, as per Doc No.5; Page No.2; Book No.314; Series of 2001 before Notary Public Santiago R. Reyes of the City of Manila.
(PDI - Mar 2, 9 & 16, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on the extrajudicial settlement of the Estate of Spouses JOSE NERY and PAULA BARBIN NERY on February 9, 2001, duly acknowledged before Notary Public for Makati City, Atty. Dominga F. Calanglang, as Doc. No. 253, Page No. 52, Book No. II Series of 2001 of her notarial register.
(PDI-Feb. 23, Mar. 2, 9, 2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)
O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your Mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank You Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.) DAU-JFU

Second generation works, too

(From page B10)

TRILLO: Wine for the young. JOHNNY VILLENA

started teaching in June 1999 and I was into it full time," Ramos says.

He juggled his time between teaching load and learning the ropes at Powerbooks Inc., the specialized bookstore of the National Bookstore group. He was assigned as operations manager when his cousin who first put up the store left for abroad.

"There was a time when my schedule was really very tight. I was shuttling between Quezon City and Makati. I was really holding two full time jobs but now that I need to spend more time with Powerbooks, I have to adjust my schedule. I am now teaching only one subject," Ramos explains.

He says it was important to him to work at Powerbooks with an impeccable educational background. He said it helped him get the confidence of the senior managers who were older (he is only 22) and have worked with the company far longer than he had.

Ramos says he gives them the leeway to make their own decisions within certain limits and rules. For his part, he believes it is his job to standardize policies and to be more aggressive in its marketing campaign.

"The image that we are trying to build is that Powerbooks is not only about books but the experience of buying those books. We believe that it is a haven for book lovers. Powerbooks is also trying to develop a loyal customer base by strengthening our Powerbooks credit card system," Ramos says.

A Cork story

Claudine Trillo, daughter of wine importer Anthony Trillo, agrees that being in the same industry as her father puts a lot of pressure on her to create her own identity. She, however, says that her youth and enthusiasm enable her own wine bar named Cork at the Rockwell Power Plant to be just a little bit different.

"I actually worked with my Dad at Beluga and the Wine Press which are fine dining restaurants with a really big wine selection but I thought about going on my own because I really wanted something to target the younger people. It is also part of my Mom's dream to see more young people drinking wine," Trillo, 23, explains.

Unlike Beluga, Cork is more rugged with its simple yet elegant chairs and tables. It still has a good selection of wine although there is emphasis on the less expensive wines to meet the budget of young professionals. The music is also a little bit louder than what would ordinarily be heard at Beluga.

"My mom was surprised that there are a lot of people who like wine or at least try to. What we do is that we try and teach people how to drink wine because Filipinos are not really wine drinkers. Our menu includes suggestions on what wine to take with certain dishes," Trillo says.

Trillo admits that running her own business is much harder than she thought but she says the sense of fulfillment of seeing people flock to her bar is indescribable. It is the only way to explain, she says, why she is willing to work the whole month to earn a five figure income when she can get a six-figure pay slip for a half day's work as a model.

"I still do modeling but it is only a sideline. It does not really take too much out of me to do that but Cork gives me the psychic income I need even if I have to be here and work hard and go through all the problems. I look forward to every day," Trillo says.

Trillo comes to Cork early in the day to get everything early for the lunch crowd. She then goes back home or go to meetings in the afternoon and go back for the evening crowd. She usually stays until way past dinner to personally take care of her customers.

"We have been almost full all the time and there are people who are asking to reserve the whole store. for parties or other celebrations. It is really nice and fulfilling. In the meantime, I am also trying to learn more about our wine," Trillo says.

The hardest part of going into business is starting it

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co

KOA

REYES

AT 23, Angelina Salas of Angeles, Pampanga, was so despondent that she wanted to kill herself. She remembers being morbidly clear and specific about how she wanted to die: by being run over by an expensive car of a high-ranking officer of Clark Air Base. The insurance money would have paid for the upbringing and education of her children. Today, at 45, Angelina is happy to be alive: she has a thriving cane furniture business that not only sends her children to the best schools but also provides a living to 100 workers and their families. Salas Cane Art is worth P20 million in assets and sells to markets abroad. For her, however, it was a rough and bumpy road toward entrepreneurship. Hers was a classic case of trying and failing and trying and failing in one venture or another until success finally came. She credits it all to persistence—*sipag*, *tipid* at *tiyaga*.

For Johnlu Koa, who founded and parlayed The French Baker into the most successful bakeshop-eatery chain in the Philippines, entrepreneurship was a second career. Entrepreneurial aspirations—inculcated in his growing up years as a young helper in his mother's small neighborhood bakeshop in Pasig—were put on hold as he picked up a bachelor's degree in business at the University of the Philippines and then an MBA; and later taught marketing and business policy in UP. In 1989, after nine years as an assistant professor, he took a long, hard look at his mother's bakeshop and decided it was high time he practiced what he taught. This was how The French Baker, now a chain of 22 upscale bakeshops all over the metropolis, was conceived.

Ricky Reyes, as doting "kuya" to a brood of six, had to work in his tender teen years to help support his virtually fatherless family. In a small beauty parlor, back in the 1960s, he swept locks of cut hair, picked up hair clips, and ran errands for customers and crew. Soon, he was cajoling the hairdressers to teach him the trade. As he fast became the "star of the show," he scrimped until he had P1,000—enough to lease a tiny space near the San Juan public market. How he turned that "hole in the wall" into the chain of 15 posh "Ricky Reyes beauty salons" patronized by the "rich and famous" is a story of guts, strict financial management, and great public relations.

Ma. Teresita Paulin Leongson was 17 when she went underground, 19 when she got married to a colleague in the "movement," 27 when she was arrested and detained. When she was released after almost a year in prison, she had nowhere to go. She would have wanted to go back to detention, for in there she didn't have to worry about food and lodging. It was friends from the "movement," who came to her rescue. Passing the hat around, they raised P5,000, which she used to begin a *karinderiya sa kariton* which catered to students at a nearby public school. Today, the *kariton* has been long carted away; in its place is the flourishing Leongson Catering Service. Tess now counts the House of Representatives, Miriam College, and several NGOs as clients and now has a full complement of food serving equipment, including a delivery van.

Salas, Koa, Reyes and Leongson will share their experiences and insights in starting a small business in a forum, "Dynamic Enterprises: How They Started" which the Small Enterprises Research and Development Foundation (Serdef) will conduct on March 9 at the Institute for Small-Scale Industries (ISSI), UP Diliman Campus.

According to Serdef president Melito S. Salazar Jr., the forum was conceived on the premise that less small businesses would be "aborted" before they are "born" if given encouragement, information and other support in the early "seeding" stage. "Experience also shows," Serdef chair Francisco R. Floro adds, "that the best source of assistance for budding entrepreneurs is not government, nor even the most committed of development agencies but other entrepreneurs—the experienced ones."

Salazar reveals that prospective businesses miscarry because of a range of reasons: from material lack (capital, facilities, skills, supplies, materials) to faulty planning (overcrowded markets, underdeveloped products, poor location) to personal failings (lack of persistence, commitment, self-confidence; inability to seize opportunities, network and obtain needed information and assistance).

One of several activities set to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Serdef, "Dynamic Enterprises: How They Started" is open to the public. Those interested to attend the forum are advised to get in touch with Nanette C. Milla at Tel. Nos. 926-6316 and 928-7076 to 79.

Chemical firm sells by first telling folks they have a problem

(From page B10)

Dow AgroSciences provide technicians with extensive training on termite biology and behavior like how they forage and how they pass information to one another.

Due to the emphasis on long-term customer relationship, Dillangue says they encourage their licensees to get people who are not only skilled but also those who have decided to make this job a career.

Dow AgroSciences plans to expand its roster of pest control operators in Metro Manila from 13 to 24 by yearend. It plans to expand to the provinces, initially in Cebu. It will soon launch a hotline and website to keep homeowners in touch with their schedule and new developments.

Dillangue says the biggest hurdle in marketing Sentricon in the Philippines is trying to convince homeowners that they needed to protect their home from termites as much as they want security against burglars or fires.

"Termites are a widespread problem in Asia; it's just a matter of the homeowner's appreciation of the value of their property," Ouimette says.

Unlike the US, where single family homes dominate the landscape, Asians tend to live in high rises or linked homes which explains why they have a lesser sense of having their own home than Americans.

"We discovered in our surveys in Asia that that there are termite problems even in high rise buildings," Ouimette says. He adds that Asia is home to the most destructive genus of termites in the world—the coptotermes. It is commonly known as Philippine milk termites or white ants.

Based on market research, Ouimette says Asia along with Latin America have probably the worst termite problem in the world. "In the Philippines, it is not uncommon for homes built three to four years ago to be severely damaged by termites including those that have chemical barrier treatment."

Ouimette says termite damage is insidious because "you won't know that you have a problem because they are inside the wood."

Dillague says a market research made two years ago reported that one of two middle-class homeowners have termite problems. Although no official data on the extent of the damage caused by termites in the Philippines, Ouimette says that in the US. damage due to termites was estimated at $2.2 billion a year, which is more than the losses caused by fires and flood combined.

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BUSINESS*Friday*

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

Second generation works, too

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

IT SOMETIMES makes people wonder why children of well-established families still study hard and even put up their own businesses when they are assured anyway of getting a nice paying job in the family corporation.

Adrian Paulino S. Ramos, operations manager of Powerbooks Inc., however, believes that being a relative of the owner actually puts more pressure for him to do well in school and to work harder if only to prove that they deserve the position they hold in the organization.

"If there is something I don't like it is for someone to say that I am where I am because I am the son of the owner. What I would like most is to deserve the respect of the people and I would like to think that I have it," Ramos says.

Ramos graduated cum laude from the Ateneo de Manila University with a management degree. He went on to teach accounting, statistics and operations at the School of Arts and Sciences.

"I thought at the time that I was qualified to teach because we are in business. It is hard to teach business when you don't have a business. I

SECOND/ B9

RAMOS: Pressure to work harder.

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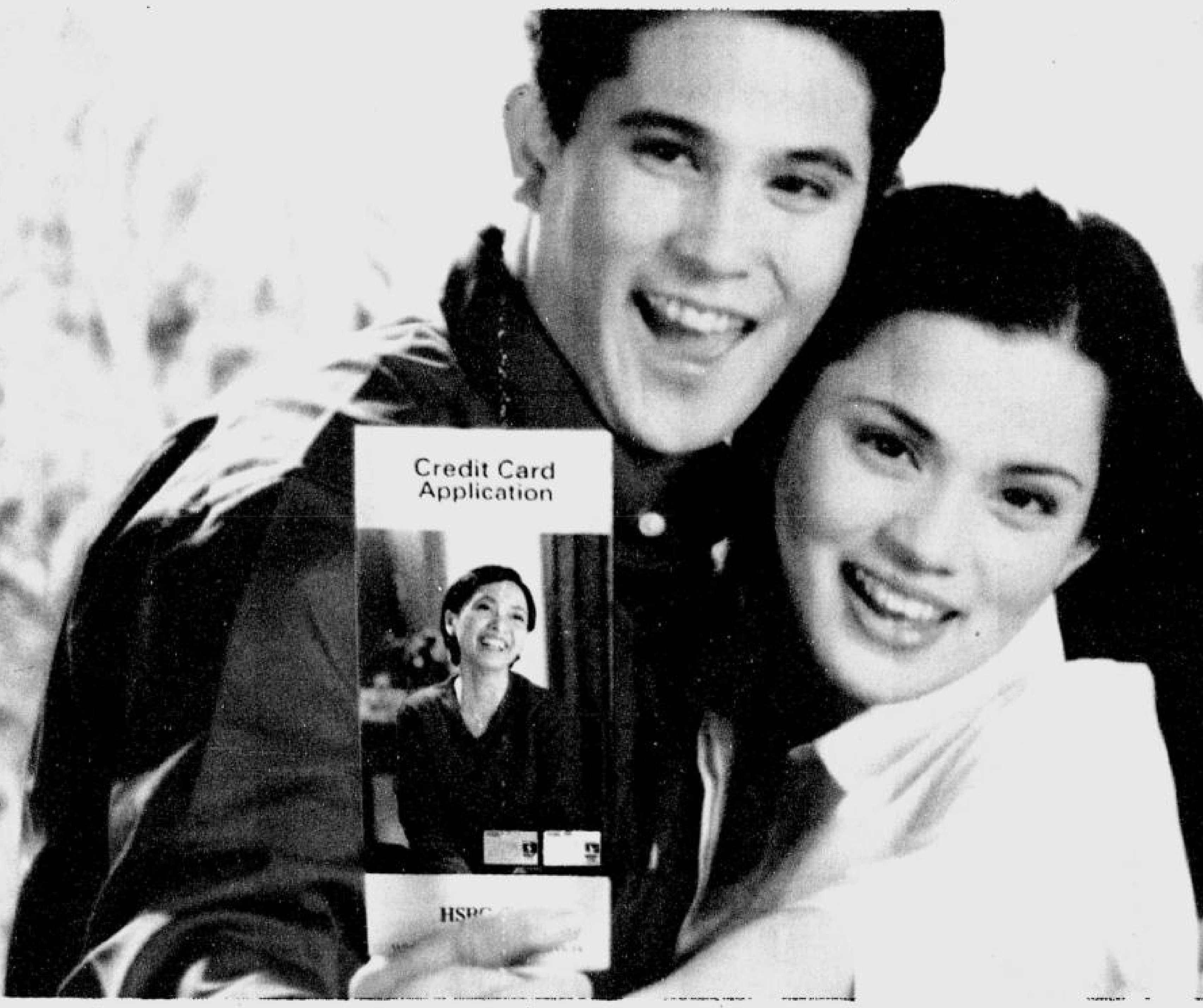

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0139, series of 2001

OUIMETTE: More intimate.

Chemical firm sells by first telling folks they have a problem

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

DOW AgroSciences is not only changing the way we deal with termite problems with the Sentricon solution; it is also changing the way homeowners perceive pest control companies.

MARKETING STRATEGY

Dow AgroSciences marketing manager Ella Dillague says that the company does not merely market the Sentricon system as the end product like traditional pest terminator companies.

"Our main selling point is our service to the consumers."

David Ouimette, Sentricon's Asia Regional Scientist, says it used to be the norm that a pest terminator would come to your house with a large tank with a hose or plastic dispensers for powdered chemicals and just spray or apply their chemicals to the affected area.

The terminator would then leave and be back either next quarter or when the termite problem surfaces anew.

"Our licensed pest control operators have a more intimate relationship with homeowners mainly because the Sentricon system requires more regular evaluation and monitoring than the normal termite control strategy," Dillague says.

A Sentricon technician would first visit your home to make an ocular inspection of your property before setting up the baits which will determine the best strategy in eliminating the problem.

Instead of the bulky spray tank and indiscriminate drillings, Sentricon technicians carry only a special wood used as bait and bury the monitoring devices strategically around the property.

The whole process from monitoring to baiting to elimination could take three to six months depending on the size of the property and the termite infestation.

"In our business, we encourage our technicians to communicate openly and regularly with the homeowners. Our system is not a one-time event. We continue to maintain relationships with our client even during the post-elimination stage since we have to continue monitoring the property against future invasion of termites," Dillague says.

Dillague adds that Dow AgroSciences adopted a more service-oriented marketing ploy because this what its Sentricon system required.

Ouimette says Dow AgroSciences was the first to use the bait technology in addressing the termite problem that was mostly dealt with previously through surface and soil treatments using mostly liquid chemicals.

Introduced in the US in 1995 (it was first offered in the Philippines in 1999), the Sentricon System boasts of being the only proven total colony elimination among the methods used for termite control based on university research in the US, Europe, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and Philippines.

Ouimette says their strategy uses the least chemicals among the termite control methods which makes it friendlier to the environment and least disruptive to owners.

"The average amount of chemicals we use to eliminate termite colony is just one gram. In contrast, a packet of sugar packet contains seven grams."

Sentricon uses an insect growth regulator called hexaflumuron which stops the termites' vital molting process. These are carried by worker termites from the bait and passed on to other worker termites. The entire colony soon collapses after the worker termites since no one would feed the soldier and queen termites, Ouimette says.

But equally important as the active chemical in the process is the technical capacity of the pest control company deploying the Sentricon System. This is why Dow AgroSciences has a stringent screening process of tapping capable pest control firms.

Dillague says that their licensed pest control firms should have technicians that were capable of making on-site analysis on the type of termites and best strategy to terminate them.

CHEMICAL/ B9

LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ▪ MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ, Subsection Editor

Trend Spotting

Mike Arroyo up close, almost personal

Story on page C4

MIKE Arroyo has always been a photography buff.

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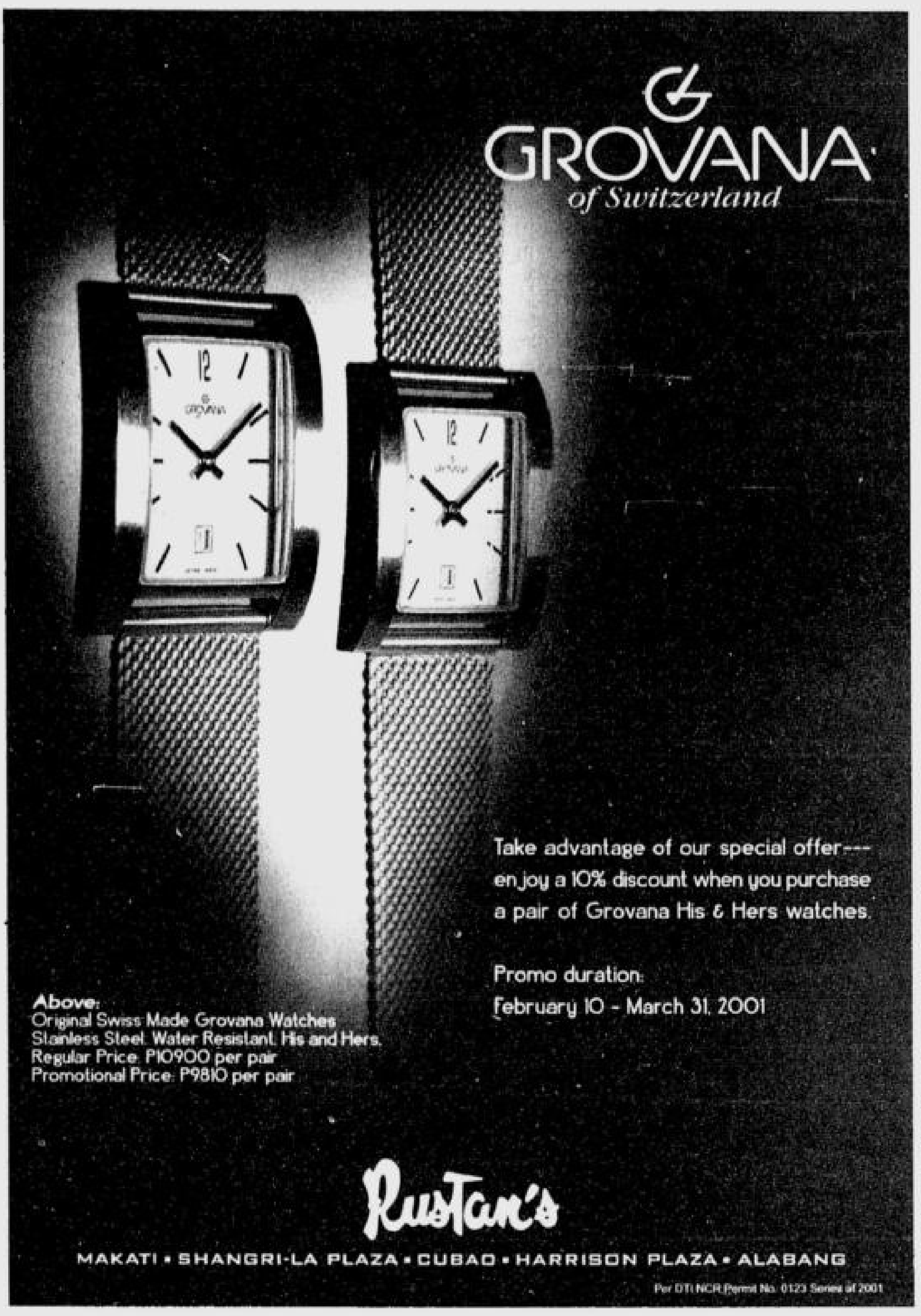

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Oil slick

THERE is nothing erotic about massage, insists entrepreneur Bryan Rott. It is a combination of mind and body as they work together to achieve relaxation.

This is why he and his partner Robyn Statman formed a company to remove the stigma of massage oil and turn it into a fashionable product.

Most massage oils contain glycerine or mineral oils that can irritate the skin. A new brand has created niche in the body care industry. Hey Slick, a slang for surface appeal, lives up to its definition.

Statman, then a law student, was stressed out with the paper chase. She would get a massage to ease the tension. Although she felt better, the massage oils were slimy and sticky. One day in law school, a good-looking classmate asked Statman what was the overpowering smell. Embarrassed, she swore off those massage oils and concocted her own formula at home. She experimented with natural oils and essences to produce a soothing oil that was easily absorbed by the body. The concoction was called Rubb.

Her childhood friend Rott, who studied painting and graphics, had worked for the family business that makes golf carts. Rott got out of the corporate world and helped build the brand while Statman did the research and development.

The business partners established Rubb Inc. and started selling the oil to spas and hotels. Because of the success of the formula, they took it to the chemist to devise the formula for retajl. The oils were called Hey Slick, named after Rott's monicker. Slick is a slang for "remarkable" or "first-rate." The product name implies that it has created its own niche and caters to the high-end market.

Rott explains that 'it's an all-natural formula. Oils from sweet almond, apricot kernel, macadamia, and jojoba nourish and hydrate the skin. Sesame and hemp seed oils incite healing. Rice bran oil and grape seed facilitate deep penetration of nutrients into the skin. While other oils have stabilizers and chemicals, Hey Slick is preserved by Vitamins A, C and E. It's got a shelf life that lasts for two years.

Hey Slick is a multipurpose oil. Aside from massaging, it can be used as a moisturizer, a fragrance splash, bath oil and even a cuticle softener. The oil is packed in French square glass bottles with thick walls and corners.

The glass preserves the integrity of the oil. There's a different scent for each day of the week. The most popular fragrances are the green tea and lavender.

When it was launched for retail, Hey Slick originally targeted the teen market (yes, stress hits younger people nowadays). The kids use the oil for personal care, not for a rub down.

Rott says Hey Slick's packaging lends itself to the trends-driven products. Since the teens are the largest consumers, it makes sense to offer the product to that segment.

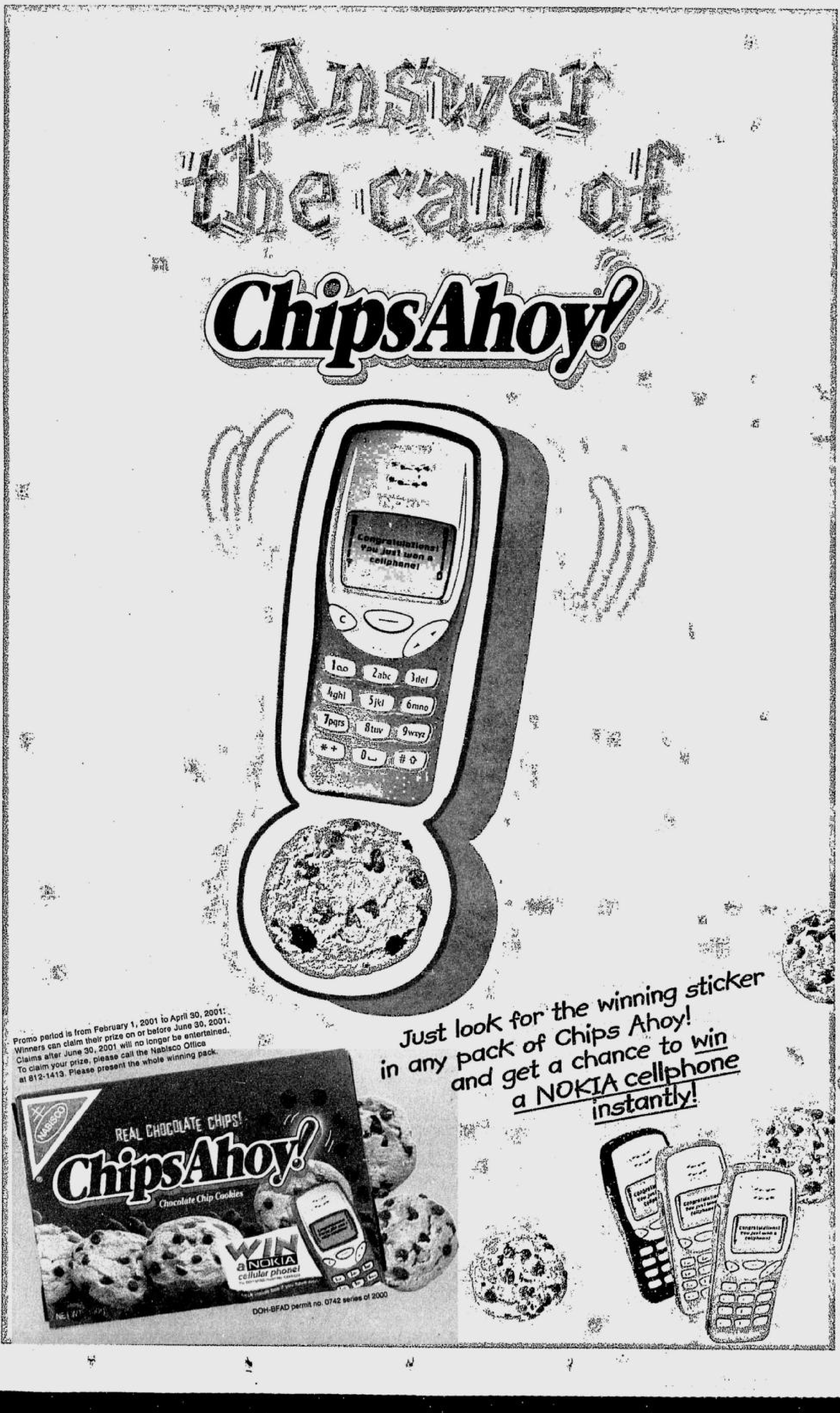
The brand is not just limited to the youthquakers. The company once got mail from an old lady who rubbed the oil on her feet. The next day they were as soft as a baby's skin.

Rubb Inc. was established only 18 months ago. Hey Slick has only been in the market for a year. The business has been growing steadily by 12 percent. It also gets a lot of business from the website www.heyslick.com. The company is bullish. It plans to be in 700 high-end stores worldwide. Ever since it was launched in Rustan's Essences, the oils have been moving at the shelves. It is also used for clients who want a back massage. Now this is one brand that will rub you the right way.

Marge C. Enriquez

hey slick
hey slick
hey slick
hey slick
hey slick

HEY Slick's packaging is hip and retro. The designs are for a culturally diverse group, particularly for everyday modern women.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Seaweed extract provides defense for the skin

IT was the Amoco Cadiz oil spillage of the 1980s which led to the discovery of the principal active ingredient in The Body Shop new Skin Defensives range, Sea Tangle extract.

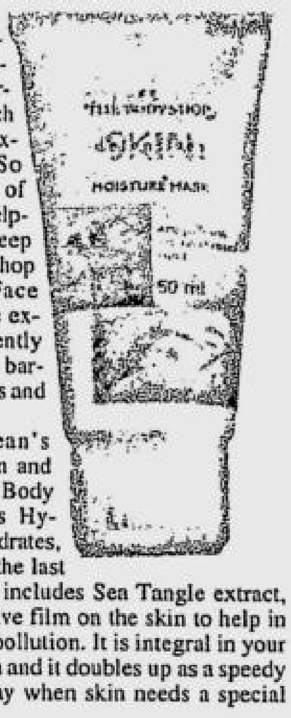
This catastrophic environmental disaster posed a serious threat to the ecology in the area off the North Coast of Brittany where it occurred. But while it caused untold damage to the marine life, a tidal zone seaweed known as the Sea Tangle miraculously survived the onslaught. Extensive research revealed that the secret behind its endurance was the Sea Tangle's natural peel, which protected the plant from the effects of this pollution.

This unique Sea Tangle extract was born out of this discovery. It results from a process that extracts and harnesses the protective film-forming properties of this particular seaweed. This film provides an invisible shield which, when applied to the skin, helps protect it against the daily environmental aggressors we have come to expect in our fast-paced urban world—exhaust fumes, dirt, smog, grease and artificially high temperatures, to name a few.

This natural seaweed extract has been incorporated into each product in The Body Shop new Skin Defensives range. It is suitable for all skin types and comprises an effective regime of skin solutions using formulations that are exclusive to The Body Shop. The range is designed to cleanse, protect and provide moisturizing repair with the primary emphasis of addressing the detrimental effects which pollution and the elements can have on the skin.

The first line of defense is to cleanse thoroughly without overdrying the skin, which can leave it open to external aggressors. So wash away last traces of dirt and grime with a helping hand from the deep blue sea. The Body Shop Skin Defensives Face Wash with Sea Tangle extract deep-cleanses gently and forms a protective barrier against the elements and damaging pollutants.

Harness the ocean's power for antipollution and freshen up with The Body Shop Skin Defensives Hydrating Freshener. It hydrates, refreshes and lifts off the last traces of makeup, and includes Sea Tangle extract, which leaves a protective film on the skin to help in the daily fight against pollution. It is integral in your daily skin-care regimen and it doubles up as a speedy treat throughout the day when skin needs a special moisture boost, fast.



An effective moisturizer is your skin's major defense system against a hostile world, delivering water to the skin's outer layers, helping to prevent moisture loss. The Body Shop Skin Defensives Moisture Cream SPF 10 goes two steps further and also provides protection against everyday pollution as well as skin damaging UV rays. This easily absorbed moisture lotion with SPF 10 feels light in use but works hard. Unique Sea Tangle extracts provide calming and soothing properties, and help protect skin against everyday damage from pollution and the elements, while the SPF 10 provides protection against UV rays throughout the day.

Less workload

The Body Shop Skin Defensives Moisture Cream is a marine dream for those who prefer their moisturizer without SPF. It feels light, but undertakes a heavy workload using unique seaweed extracts from the Sea Tangle to help protect skin.

The Body Shop Skin Defensives Night Treatment provides intensive overnight action. While you sleep, it works, helping to restore moisture to the skin after a day's exposure to the urban environment. Unique seaweed extracts from Sea Tangle help to sooth, calm and protect skin before the start of a new day.

Skin can really take a battering from the elements, so take time to gently but effectively remove the build-up and reveal the real you. When skin needs a boost of radiance, The Body Shop Skin Defensives Exfoliating Mask is the smoothest operator. Jojoba beads gently exfoliate the skin, lifting away daily grime and removing dead skin cells from its surface. The inclusion of Sea Tangle extract helps to protect skin against everyday damage from pollution and the elements.

If your skin has earned an ocean-powered moisture boost, let it soak up The Body Shop Skin Defensives Moisture Mask. This high-performance treat provides relief for super-stressed skin by delivering intensive hydration. The unique seaweed extracts from Sea Tangle give it the edge by helping to protect the skin against everyday damage from pollution and the elements.

Phycosaccharide Anti-Pollution is the technical term for Sea Tangle extract. It is the product of a patented process that extracts and harnesses the protective film-forming properties of this seaweed. This film provides an invisible shield which helps to protect skin against environmental aggressors such as pesticides, cigarette smoke and heavy metals.

My best friends are
always one text away.
Now I've got a new friend
who's always at my side.

Mike Arroyo up close, almost personal

Dinner with the First Spouse was quite revealing

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

IT was a long shot but no harm in trying. I asked a friend if she could invite her good friend from way back in high school to dinner. She did and since **Mike Arroyo** has always loved my friend's cocido, he said yes to the invite two Fridays ago.

It was a small group so Mike felt comfortable and obviously willing to take a break from a hectic day and from the "fishbowl," as he described his life now.

The First Spouse looks a bit thinner in person than on those front-page photos; it helped that he was in dark blue shirt, tucked in at that.

He struck me as a nonchalant, what-you-see-is-what-you-get persona (but then they all do) who answered questions spontaneously. As in the case of ordinary people suddenly thrust into bigger-than-life stature through no choice of theirs, that candor could only translate into down-home charm, especially now that he was using his digital camera on us. It seems that since he became First Spouse he has been wielding his camera like some security blanket.

A media and publishing buff, Mike has been taking photos since he was 11. He developed his own photos and published his own teen magazine called Teen Tones in college patronized by friends from La Salle, Assumption and the exclusive-school network. When wife **Gloria** joined politics, his photography came in not only handy but also, it turned out, crucial. As is known now, it was he who took her à la **Nora Aunor** photo used in those ubiquitous posters which tagged Gloria as the "Nora Aunor ng Senado," and which helped her bag the Senate vote.

"We had a big fight over that poster photo," Mike recalled. Gloria's staff wanted to use a photo showing her before bulldozers. "But I said that would make you look even smaller, whereas I just knew that this pose [the La Aunor] had it. I had the right angle, the right softness. So I insisted, 'We stand or fall on this photo,' and she said, 'It's your fault if I lose.' I said, 'What's your problem? You said you don't like politics anyway, so what if we lose?' But the moment that poster came off the presses, I knew we had a good one because the printing press guys themselves were taking some to bring home."

He added, "Besides at that time, people couldn't connect to an economist. *Tamang-tama* we got to invite Nora to Manila Hotel, so I said, 'Can we take your photo with Gloria?' and we released that photo to the papers and people said, '*Kamukha nga ni* Nora.' "

Political animal

The more he talked that dinner—and not only about his judgment calls on Gloria's photos—the more it dawned on me that the First Spouse is, in fact, the political animal in the family. Not only does he know by heart all the twists and turns in Gloria's political career—of which he was the comaker—he obviously gets a kick out of being able to feel the public pulse about his wife, to study her every political move, and being proved that his hunch was correct, in the first place.

"I don't know why I like politics. My grandfather Jose Maria Arroyo was a senator, my father always talked politics. Maybe I was born to back up somebody. I like the gut-feel. And to think I don't really study surveys that well."

Then why didn't he enter politics himself, instead of Gloria? "I can't speak all that well, unlike her. What I enjoy is planning her media campaign."

Today he thinks that Gloria is still on her "honeymoon" with media. "Even the INQUIRER has been good to her."

Many have noticed that the President's voice—which her critics love to spoof—is not as shrill as before, is even well modulated. We asked Mike if she has a voice coach.

"None," he said. "It's her confidence." Gloria's voice has the normal pitch, the husband added, when she's comfortable. "She's just blooming on the job."

When Gloria first ran for the Senate, Mike wasn't only her campaign manager, he also did the nitty-gritty of publicity, like writing and angling her press releases.

He also apparently enjoyed the campaign trail, from the time Gloria was practically an unknown and she and Mike had to lug their own luggage in their provincial sorties, while the rest of the senatorial candidates had their own coteries, to the stage appearances. "I thought she should dance, not sing because she couldn't sing, so we started doing the swing and the boogie, and before we knew it we were the final act of the show. One time, we lost control with that swing and I literally had to run after Gloria or she'd fall off the stage. People thought that was expertise, they didn't know we were really falling away and I had to catch my wife."

As Mike chuckled heartily over such down-in-the-boondocks experiences, you couldn't miss the point that not only has he been supportive of his wife's political career, he's also her biggest believer.

Clear thinker

"She can think clearly. Very logical. She works very hard. Even at 1:30 a.m. the other night, I heard her talking on the phone to Gen. **Mendoza**, then to other officials. After a hard day, she can even write her own speeches, then be up for Mass at 8 a.m. It's her spirituality, her fear of God that I think will see her through all this."

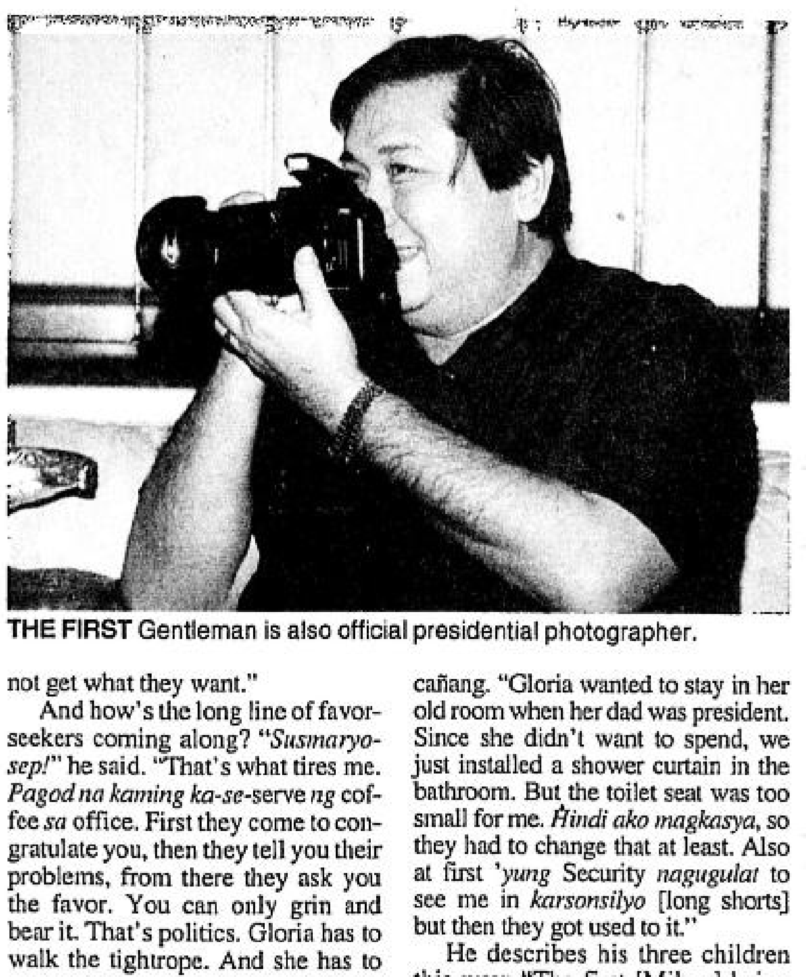
How can he take the backseat all these years? "I made the big mistake once," he said. "Early in our marriage, I asked her to stay home, look after the kids, while I worked. I saw how bored she was, how I was wasting away that intelligence. So I told her she could go back to school, do what she wanted and I'd support her. I've supported her since."

Not only did Gloria take up her master's and teach at Assumption, she also took a government post and, after a family caucus, decided to join politics.

"She was reluctant at first because we didn't have the money and you needed P10 million then. But I said we could sell a property."

I asked him, Where's his man's ego all this time? He laughed, "I'm not all that great."

I reminded him about the rumor that he's corrupt. "How can I be corrupt? I've always been in the private sector. My family has always been rich. And now, there's EO#1 (Executive Order barring presidential relatives from government or doing business with it). I tell people if they come to me, the more they'll surely not get what they want."



THE FIRST Gentleman is also official presidential photographer.

And how's the long line of favor-seekers coming along? "*Susmaryosep!*" he said. "That's what tires me. *Pagod na kaming ka-se*-serve *ng* coffee *sa* office. First they come to congratulate you, then they tell you their problems, from there they ask you the favor. You can only grin and bear it. That's politics. Gloria has to walk the tightrope. And she has to succeed, it's to the country's interest that she succeeds because otherwise we'd all go down."

Reinvention

I asked him how he'd redefine the Office of the First Lady, compared to his "predecessors"?

"Good thing I can't compare, because this is the first time [there's a First Gentleman]. We'll call it Opisina ng Kabiyak, *para* okay. Then our projects cover health, not only medical missions, but also dialysis centers, livelihood projects, justice so that those with no means to pay for legal help can be helped, and the youth."

He's adjusting to life in Malacañang. "Gloria wanted to stay in her old room when her dad was president. Since she didn't want to spend, we just installed a shower curtain in the bathroom. But the toilet seat was too small for me. *Hindi ako magkasya*, so they had to change that at least. Also at first '*yung* Security *nagugulat* to see me in *karsonsilyo* [long shorts] but then they got used to it."

He describes his three children this way: "The first [Mikey] being the eldest is my favorite, my daughter [Luli] is the one who runs my life and my youngest [Dato] is the one I can't say no to."

The family isn't done moving their stuff over to Malacañang, and Mike doubts if they will complete the transfer. What he and the kids can't leave behind in their house though are Luli's dachsund and his Dalmatians. Mike loves dogs.

What has kept his marriage to Gloria intact, I asked. "Her patience," he said without hesitation.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@link.com.ph

Celebrating Edsa I and II

BY DONNIE C. RAMIREZ

TRUE-BLUE cosmopolites **Rosemarie "Baby" Arenas** and **Josine Elizalde** joined savvy forces recently to mark the anniversary of People Power I and to celebrate the success of its recent reincarnation, Edsa II. The elegant duo hosted a thanksgiving dinner at Josine's lovely home in Forbes Park to pay tribute to the many people, especially the unnamed heroes, who made Edsa I and Edsa II possible, Baby said.

With her trademark knee-long black tresses casually brushed back, the ebullient and sometimes controversial lady-philanthropist warmly welcomed the guests in a black strapless dress with floral appliqués on the skirt. The evening's cohost, the stunning and statuesque, Josine, exuded sheer glamour in a V-neck pink knitted top and black lounging hostess pants.

Op-ed columnist **Teddy Benigno** arrived early with his gracious wife **Luz**. Benigno delivered a heartwarming speech in praise of Baby's largely unheralded role in the success of the two bloodless people's revolts. **Pastor "Boy" Saycon**, one of the prime movers behind the Council on Philippine Affairs (Copa), followed up with interesting behind-the-scene vignettes, zeroing in on Baby's "food brigade" which provided thousands of sandwiches to the legions who went to Edsa.

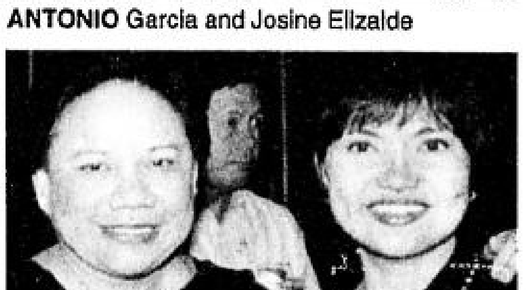
Ilocos Sur Gov. **Luis "Chavit" Singson**, whose *jueteng* exposé ignited the spark that led to the ouster of **President Estrada**, was the man of the hour. Sharing the limelight were Copa prez **Peping Cojuangco** and his wife, Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Affairs **Tingting Cojuangco**, and Sen. **Loren Legarda-Leviste**, who came with her husband **Tony**. Loren, who celebrated her birthday a week before, was a special honoree at the affair.

The well-attended celebration was also graced by Bro. **Eddie Villanueva** of the Jesus is Lord Flock, Presidential Chief Protocol Officer **George Reyes**, Customs Commissioner **Titus Villanueva**, DOTC Undersecretary **Art Valdez**, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes chair **Honey de Leon**, Rep. **Rodrigo Duterte** of Davao City, Kilosbayan leader and filmmaker **Behn Cervantes** with brother **Tony**, Today writer **Glenn Gale**, Western Police District superintendent **Avelino Razon**, media mogul **Freddie Garcia** and wife **Gloria**, and senatorial candidate and former House Speaker **Manny Villar**'s wife **Cynthia**.

Ably helping out in attending to the guests were Baby's pretty daughter **Rachel**, executive assistant **Marilen Guisade** and Josine's pal and soulmate **Antonio Garcia**.

"More than just a celebration, this is a manifestation of our commitment to remain vigilant in preserving people empowerment," chorused Baby and Josine. Carry on, ladies!

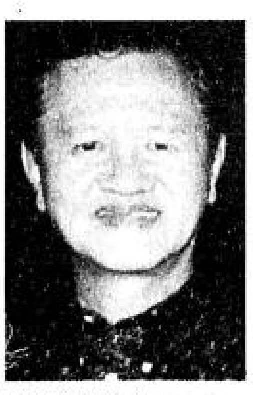
ANTONIO Garcia and Josine Elizalde



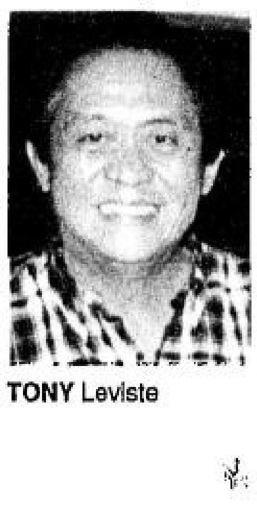
CYNTHIA Villar and Maricor Imperial

GLORIA and Freddie Garcia

GOV. Chavit Singson (seated, left) with Baby Arenas, Tingting Cojuangco, Josine Elizalde and Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste.



PEPING Cojuangco



TONY Leviste

PEONY Siu, Nu Skin distributor from Hong Kong, has been using its products for 10 years. After using the skin therapy system for two months, her skin cleared up.

ADDIE Congsiriwatana of Thailand doesn't look fiftysih after using Nuskin. He said his freckles faded and his wrinkles reduced.

A system that claims to make you look younger in 7 days

YU-CHEN Chuang of Taiwan lived in a fishing village. Under long exposure to the sun and poor quality of skin-care products, her pores were clogged. Fine lines and spots all over her face. During her pregnancy she experienced hormone secretion, her facial spots worsened.

After using Nu Skin's therapy, her complexion became even-toned.

Nu Skin has a new approach to the fight against aging skin—180° Skin Therapy System. This scientifically advanced line of products is designed to bring moisture and elasticity to skin. This system is designed for women that are concerned with reducing the visible signs of aging. It promises visible results in seven days.

Products could not be formulated with high acid-free levels without causing irritation to the skin. "Now, 180°'s revolutionary ingredient—HMW Complex—makes these products nonirritating," said Scott Whittier, senior director of Nu Skin Product Development. "This allows 180° Cell Renewal Fluid to be formulated with a 7 percent acid-free level—providing faster, more visible antiaging benefits."

180° consists of five advanced products that work best when used as a system: Face Wash, Skin Mist, Cell Renewal Fluid, Night Complex and UV Block Hydrator SPF 18. All products are dermatologist-tested. 180° Face Wash is a water-activated cleanser that releases 10 percent pure Vitamin C to the skin while removing oil, makeup and environmental pollution. It boosts the skin's ability to produce collagen, reduces hyper-pigmentation, the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles, and improves skin radiance, clarity and texture. Active ingredients include glycerin, sesame oil, ascorbic acid, grape seed extract and ginseng.

180° Skin Mist is a gentle, alcohol-free preparation mist with hydrating emollients that help maintain the skin's moisture balance. Cucumber extracts cool, soothe and firm the skin without stripping away the natural oils. A unique patented mushroom extract helps diminish the appearance of pores and improves skin tone.

The 180° line also includes the Cell Renewal Fluid, a multibenefit 13 percent alpha and beta hydroxy acid complex (the highest amount available without a prescription) that provides maximum skin exfoliation while softening the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles with collagen and elastin-boosting ingredients. This fragrance-free, light, nongreasy formula delivers profound improvement to the skin's appearance in one week.

180° UV Block Hydrator SPF 18 helps combat the visible effects of sun damage while protecting the skin from further exposure to UVA and UVB rays. This technologically advanced sunscreen and moisturizer contains marine extracts that, when exposed to sunlight, actually work to reverse the harm caused by UV rays. While most sunscreens only shield skin against UVB (burning rays), this moisturizer contains transparent zinc oxide to also protect the skin against the broadest spectrum of UVA rays (damaging rays linked to premature aging), DNA enzymes work to mimic skins' own natural cellular recovery system. This nonirritating, nonallergenic formula is gentle enough for sensitive skin, provides moisture deep into the skin's surface layers for visible plumping and allows makeup to glide on easily.

During sleep, the body undergoes cellular repair processes. 180° Night Complex was created to assist in prompting the skin's own natural repair from intense exfoliation. This advanced technology complex, including Pentylene Glycol, Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil and Grape Seed Extract, enhances collagen and elastin production to "lift" skin and promote skin elasticity. It is lightly scented and works hard to plump and hydrate the skin throughout the night.

Continued use of these exceptional products will combat and slow down the advanced signs of aging. A dramatic softening of visible lines and wrinkles will occur, and skin will become smoother, clearer and more radiant.

Nu Skin Phils. is a subsidiary of Nu Skin Enterprises. Nu Skin Enterprises and its affiliates operate in 33 countries including Asia, Europe, North and South America, Australia and New Zealand. Founded in 1984 in Provo, Utah, Nu Skin markets more than 100 premium quality personal care products created specifically for person-to-person distribution. Call 689-0333 or visit www.nuskin.com.ph.

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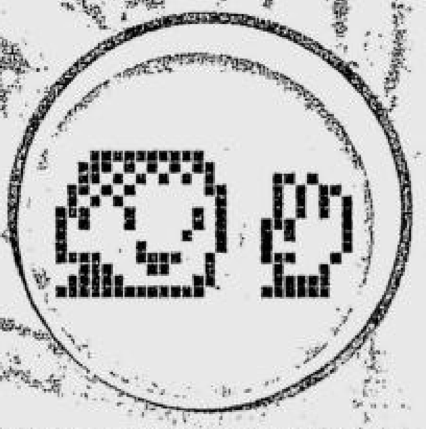

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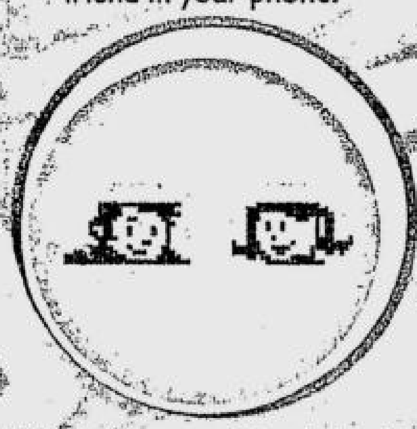

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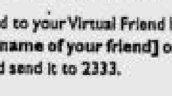
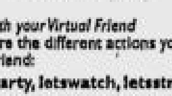
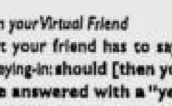


Get introduced to your Virtual Friend by keying-in: **boy [desired name of your friend] or girl [name of friend] and send it to 2333.**

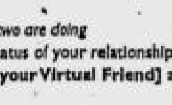
And here's what you can do together:

1


Things to do with your Virtual Friend
Listed below are the different actions you can do with your Virtual Friend:
letseat, letsparty, letswatch, letsstroll, letsrelax
Type-in the keyword and fill-in the details of what you want to do and send it to 2333. Your Virtual Friend will then reply to you.

2


Ask advice from your Virtual Friend
Find out what your friend has to say about your problems by keying-in: **should [then your question which can be answered with a "yes" or "no"]** then send it to 2333.

3


Know how you two are doing
Find out the status of your relationship by keying-in: **HI [name of your Virtual Friend]** and send it to 2333.

Each successfully sent request to 2333 costs ₱2.00 for plan subscribers and ₱2.50 for Prepaid Plus.

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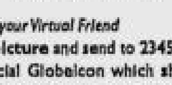
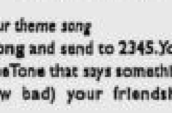


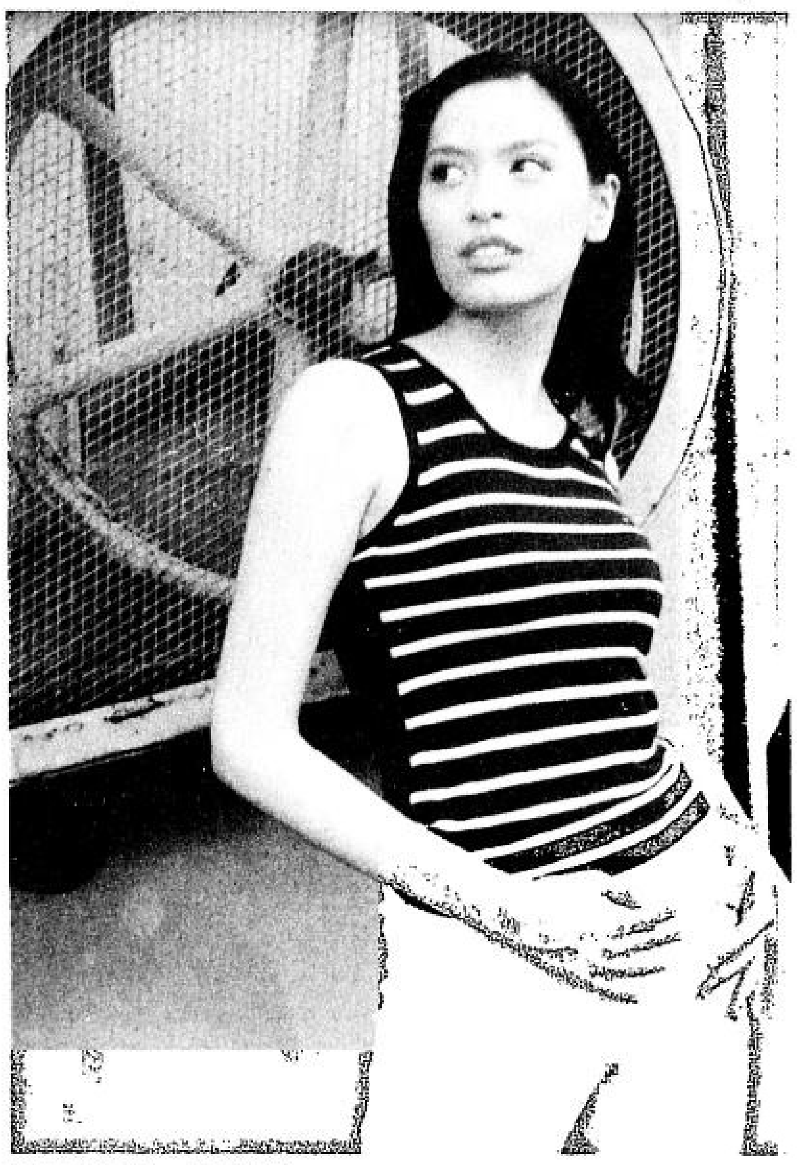
Get a Photo of your Virtual Friend
Key-in: **Take picture** and send to 2345. You will then receive a special GlobeIcon which shows the last activity you did together. (Only available for selected Nokia phones).

2


Get to hear your theme song
Key-in: **our song** and send to 2345. You will receive a special GlobeTone that says something about how well (or how bad) your friendship is going.

Each successfully sent request to 2345 costs ₱20.00 for plan subscribers and ₱25.00 for Prepaid Plus.

ISABEL is waiting to be fetched by her date at the Westin's helipad.



BRETON striped knit shirt

Despite making trendy modifications here and there, Mike de la Rosa hews to the tried and tested—and he does not have to apologize for it

Mr. Clean stays clean

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photo by Wahoo Guerrero

MODEL Isabel Roces walks in front of a giant terra-cotta pot at the lagoon of the Westin Philippine Plaza. She swings an orange tote that contrasts with the crisp, white military-inspired pantsuit. The look is so Mike de la Rosa—simple and no-nonsense. No wonder he's dubbed "Mr. Clean."

On his monicker, he explains that his lines and silhouettes look deceptively simple. Beneath the unfussy quality is the fastidious workmanship that's his trademark. If one were to inspect the in-seams, everything is done very neatly. "*Balibaliktarin mo, malinis pa rin.*"

He is in his element when he cuts tailored patterns. De la Rosa learned his technique by trial and error. He would inspect the suits and analyze how they were made. "I'm partial to the European style. It's softer and has rounder edges."

It is said one can tell a good designer by the armholes and sleeves. Believe it or not, some of the hyped designers have their lapses. "The armholes and the sleeves are the key. The armholes should lie flat against the skin and not tight or bunching up. The sleeves should fall as naturally as your arm. There should be no twisting or puckering of the seams. Personally, I can tell a good dress or suit just by the way it hangs from a hanger," he explains.

"The pattern has to be perfect whether you cut one time or cut again, you add or subtract, everything has to be perfect. It's all about making time to fit, giving attention to details and working with your clients."

Basic and safe

Because his styles are basic, sometimes detractors say he's too safe and predictable.

"To some extent, my RTW clothes are predictable because the market dictates it up to a certain point," he says.

The explanation is also predictable. "In RTW you have to temper your designs. You can't make outlandish clothes on a whim, only to see them walking all over town—unless that is your intent. You can't be too avant-garde also."

Women will favor the solid-colored blazers and skirts and basic blouses. On the other hand, if he doesn't produce new textures, prints, colors or patterns, sales slacken. Therefore he has to produce something different.

In local retail, one can't be too early. During the first quarter of 2000, he made ruffled outfits. The look didn't pick up until the later part of the year.

He has his reasons for being prudent and conventional. "I like my clothes to be worn over and over, not just hanging in the darkest part of the closet, waiting for that trend to come back or waiting for the wearer to be in the right mood. Safe clothes are fun. They are always there for you. You can jazz it up or pare it down, depending on your accessories. It's all part of the lifestyle that I espouse. Safe is good."

Concepts

Like most RTW designers, Mike can only unleash his creativity when he makes custom-made clothes for clients who are open to new ideas.

When he plans a collection, he gets his ideas from patterns, fabrics, periods in history and moods. Then he zeroes in on a certain silhouette and chooses the appropriate fabrics. Drawing concepts is the most difficult; things get fun when he's cutting the pattern.

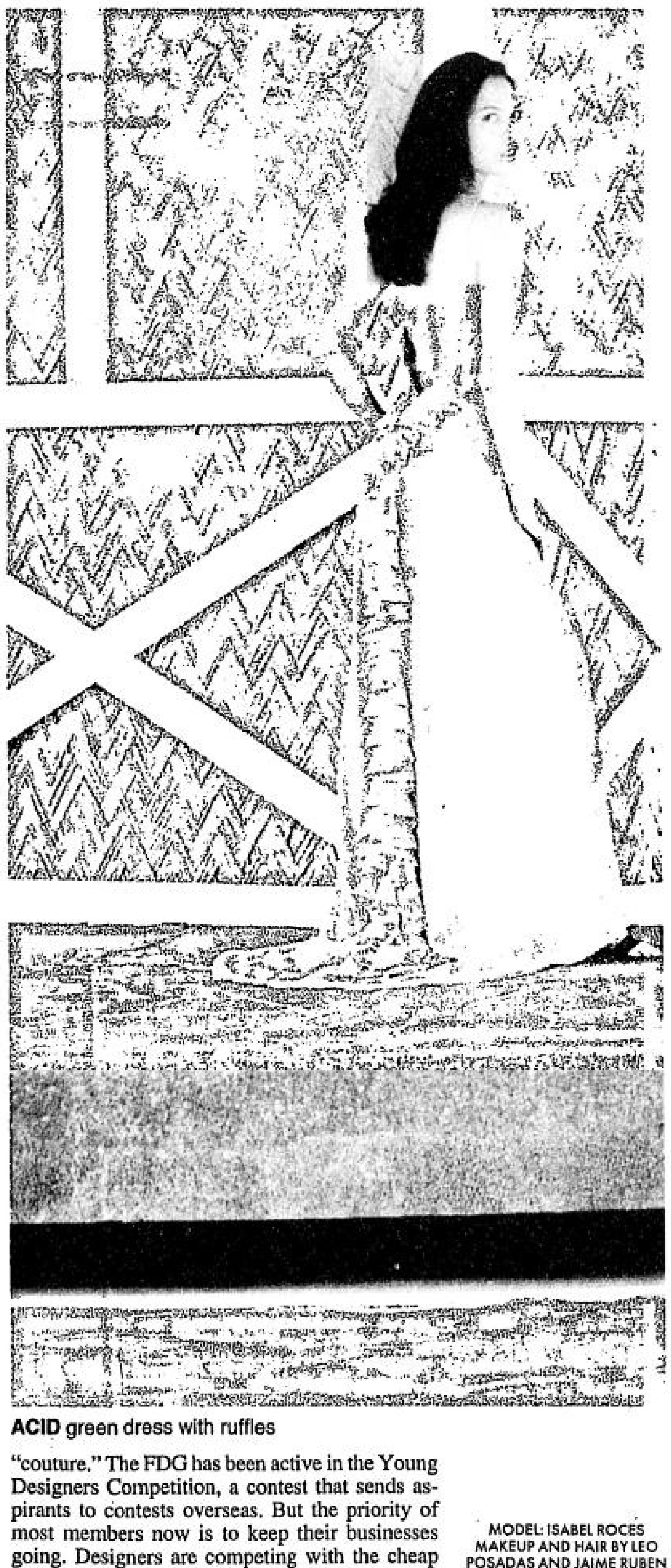
De la Rosa learned patternmaking in a couple of special schools. He was also trained as a cutter. Like many RTW designers, he started out supplying separates in SM Shoemart until he became part of the Boutique Square.

With other colleagues, he joined the Filipino Designers Group, which aimed to promote Philippine fashion and make it into an industry. The yearly fashion shows were meant to showcase their creativity.

Many original members have gone. Many designers have specialized in wedding and debutante gowns, which today are the equivalent of "couture." The FDG has been active in the Young Designers Competition, a contest that sends aspirants to contests overseas. But the priority of most members now is to keep their businesses going. Designers are competing with the cheap imported brands sold in bargain centers.

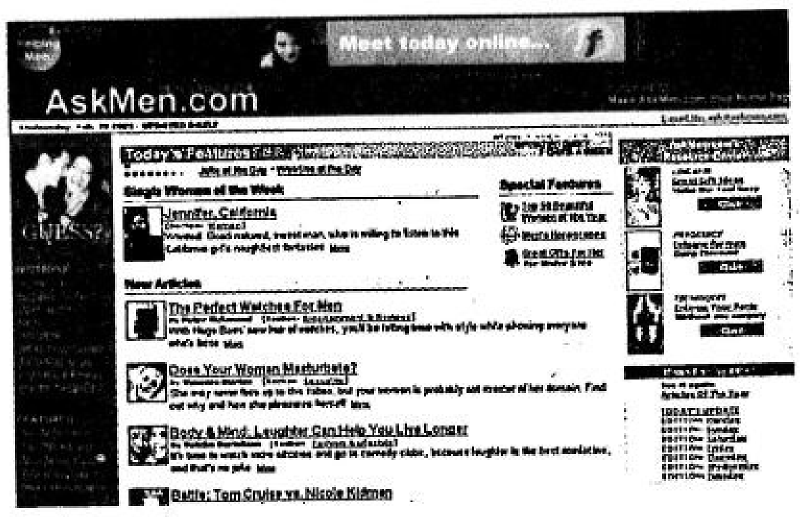
Although the fashion scene is lackluster, De la Rosa still pursues his craft. "I would miss the grind. Besides this is my passion. It keeps me thinking ahead all the time. If my clothes stay on the rack for too long, the pressure is on for a new line. As long as I show something new, sales will pick up."

ORANGE gazar tulle gown



ACID green dress with ruffles

MODEL: ISABEL ROCES
MAKEUP AND HAIR BY LEO POSADAS AND JAIME RUBEN FOR PATRICK ROSAS
MAKEUP: L'OREAL
LOCATION: WESTIN PHILIPPINE PLAZA
SPECIAL THANKS TO RICA BAELLO-PENALOSA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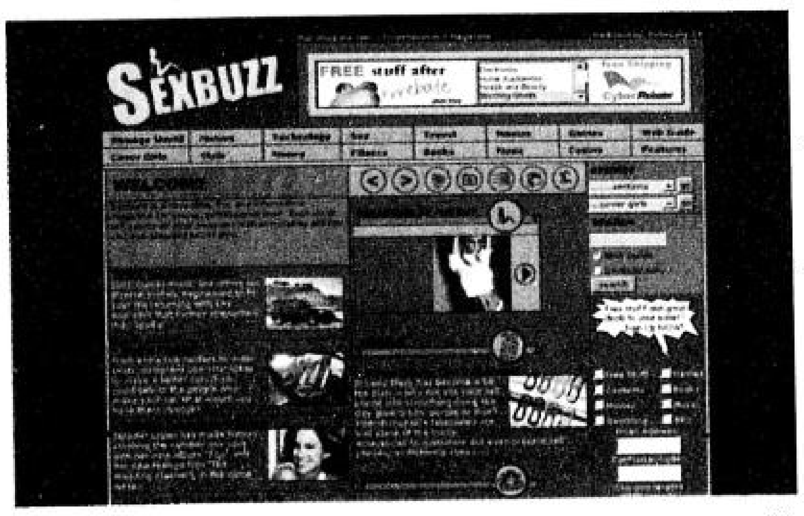
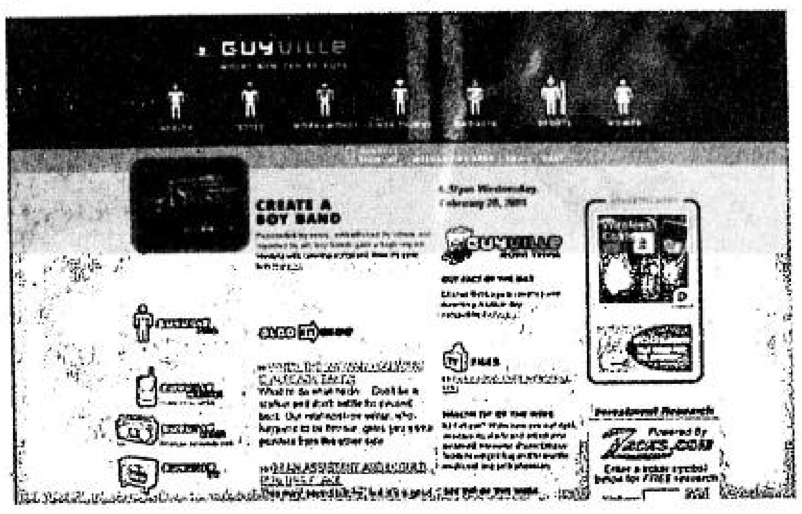




Men's grooming and style in cyberspace

There are not enough fashion sites for men, which shows men are not at all that interested about looking chic and dressy

BY CHERISH GARCIA-HERNANDEZ

I RECENTLY asked a number of male friends their favorite Internet sites. Not surprisingly, they tended to favor music sites, sport-related sites, sites with downloads for PDAs, or sites related to their line of work.

There are many sites on the Internet about beauty and style, which are obviously geared toward women. But research shows that more and more men are starting to take extra care of their appearances and the number of personal care products targeted specifically for men is on the rise. There are a growing number of men's magazines like GQ and Esquire, two excellent magazines that cover men's style, among others. But what about cyberspace? Are men still a long way from being comfortable with their masculinity to have sites that provide grooming and style tips?

An exhaustive search seemed to confirm this. Articles that refer to men's fashion or grooming are always footnotes in a predominantly women's site. There are many e-zines out there like totalguy.com and ivolt.com but these are so stereotypically male, with the kind of humor and information that men seem to gravitate toward. But there is hope at the end of the tunnel and a few interesting sites worth checking out have surfaced.

At askmen.com they feature a "beautiful actress/model/singer/babe…of the week," side by side with a "man of the week." Men like George Lucas, David Letterman and Eric Clapton were recently featured. They also have a drink of the week (this week they teach you how to mix a mean Cosmopolitan) and a joke of the week. They pretty much cover everything under the sun with sections on dating and love, sexuality, men and women, health and sports, power and money, entertainment and style. They have a fashion question and answer column very similar to GQ's "Style Guy" ("Style Guy" is much wittier though). Since askmen.com seems fixated on Top 10 lists, we checked out a few and were pleasantly surprised to find Boracay among their top 10 beaches. (No. 8!)

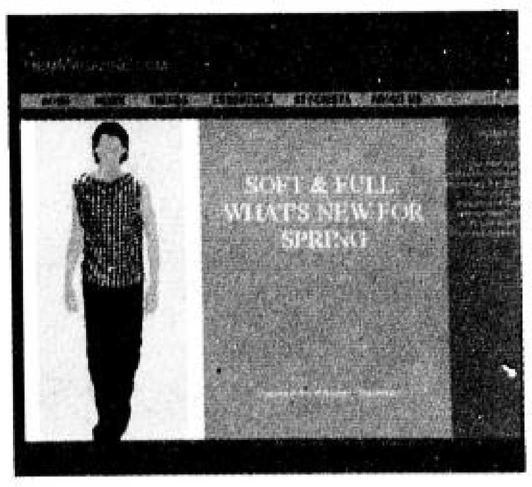
Then there's sexbuzz.com. Yes, the name sounds sleazy but this is actually an okay site. Of course, the name could be a ploy to attract men, which actually perpetuates that whole "men are only interested in sex" issue. Anyway, the site features a wide range of topics such as travel, movies, books, motoring and style. Of course, there is the gratuitous photograph of a model in a bikini, actually the "cover girl of the day," but it is very small. A click on its Style sections reveals great gadgets, a perfume feature and an article on men's suits. The book section is sophomoric with the latest John Grisham novel and the Harry Potter series among the recommendations, but the fact that they even devote space for books is commendable. Our problem with this site is that it tells us that men are basically testosterone-driven freaks, which we know is not the case.

By far the most well-rounded site is guyville.com. Its "look" alone is easy on the eyes with muted shades of army green. It is worth noting that for some reason, most men's sites are black with splashes of red or some other strong color. Aside from sections on health, money, gadgets, sports and women, guyville.com features men's style and a really useful grooming guide. In the latest issue they offer "tips on dealing with your pompadour, trimming the goatee, getting a clean shave and insight into fashion culture." There are op-ed columns as well like "woman in guyville" which is basically an advice column. This site doesn't take itself too seriously and it has very readable articles.

Hemmagazine.com is the closest thing to a typical woman's magazine except that it is for men. Content-wise it is a little paltry but there's lots of information on fashion and grooming products. Admittedly, a little too much. I'd be worried if my husband read it with gusto.

The verdict? There just aren't very many sites dedicated to grooming and style for men because there aren't many men who want them, which in a way is sad. After all, how many times have we seen great-looking girls hand in hand with sloppily dressed men whose idea of style is a baseball cap put on backward or sandals with socks (unless you're German, this look doesn't really fly). Unfortunately, men still think that addressing their physical appearances is a reflection of femininity. And while we'd be a little wary of men who are too beautiful and too perfect, a snappily dressed guy with a great haircut isn't too bad either.

E-mail the author cherishgh@yahoo.com.



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Hair-raising experience

BY CAMILLE T. CRUZ
PHOTOS BY RAYMOND LAUCHENGCO

Don't let your head be one haphazard zone. Make it the sovereign of style

I AM amused when I see the evolution of celebrity hairstyles over the years. But I am more amused with the evolution of my own hairstyles. Some were unbelievably "groovy" in a not-so-attractive way. Then there were some that boosted my confidence immensely.

It was only lately that I learned the impact of a hairstyle. As a young teen, I tried the classic perm. The only problem was, my hair was short. Of course, I was terrified. The sun didn't come out the next day.

It came out again when I went into the John Dellaria Salon, which was a highly reputable salon during my younger years in Massachusetts. I risked my practice for the student piano recital for better hair. It was really a miracle. Two hours later, I went back to the school grounds with a fresh new look, lots of compliments, and a piano piece in mind for next year's recital.

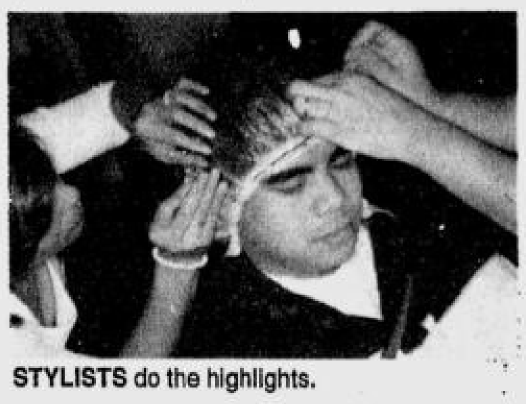
Hair is as important as one's wardrobe. The wrong hairstyle spoils an otherwise well-earned look. Salon de Tashiro stresses it is also important to update one's hairstyle. It is not just a matter of cutting one's hair shorter and trimming it every month, following the same style since birth. Tashiro recommends that men and women should try other styles: the short two-by-three style for men, and the natural, never-been-colored hair for women.

Of course, the style would have to suit you. It really depends on one's overall image: from the facial structure, features, shape and personality. Hairstyle brings out a lot in a person. Even more, it will accentuate one's overall appearance.

My first trip to Salon de Tashiro was a therapeutic experience. After reclining in my seat with my head rested over the sink, a white sanitized small towel was placed over my face. I shielded my eyes from the fluorescent lights above. A larger towel was placed over the thighs as well. How thoughtful! The whole process ended with a brief shoulder and back massage.

Hairstyles are anything from short, spiky streaked bronze to simple, long straight hair. It is very important for you to be able to execute the same styling when you leave the salon. If you can't do it, try a less complicated hairstyle.

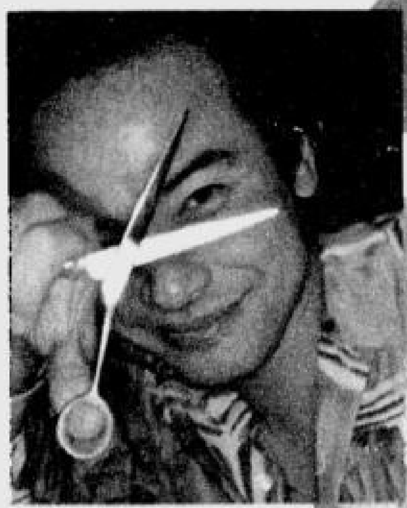
Salon de Tashiro is a franchise from Fukuoka in Kyushu, Japan.



STYLISTS do the highlights.

CUTTING the hair to follow the highlights.

THE LIFE of color



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If you're in Alabang Town Center, text: "Hello Town"
If you're in Ayala Center Cebu, text: "Hello ACCebu" (for Cebu residents only)

Send your text to 2333 and receive our WELCOME TEXT featuring the latest mall events and discounts for the day. And if you're lucky, you'll also receive our confirmation that you're one of 90 daily winners of Ayala Cinema tickets, Timezone Powercards or gift certificates from Ayala Mall establishments! What's more, drop by the TXT 4 Thrills booth for a chance to win NOKIA gift checks! Just answer the questionnaire and play the Booth Thrills game at our computer terminal. So hurry and start texting your favorite Ayala mall now and we'll send thrills up your spine in the TXT 4 Thrills promo!

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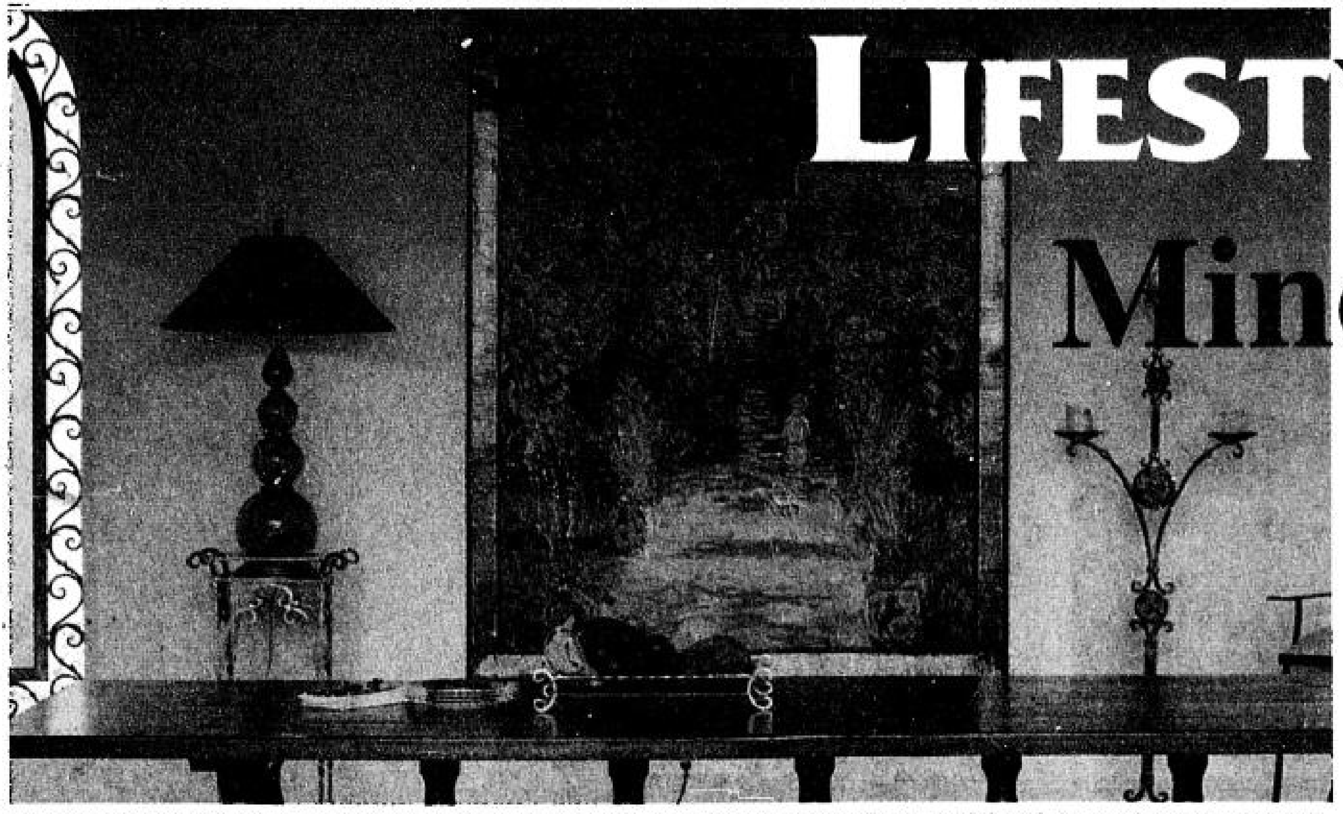
LIFESTYLE

Home



Minor classics

(Story on page D2)

A REPRODUCTION of a Monet original is framed in steel plate, lined and coated to keep it free from rusting. Other pieces made from wrought iron are the lampshade (note hand-blown glass), fruit tray and candelabra.

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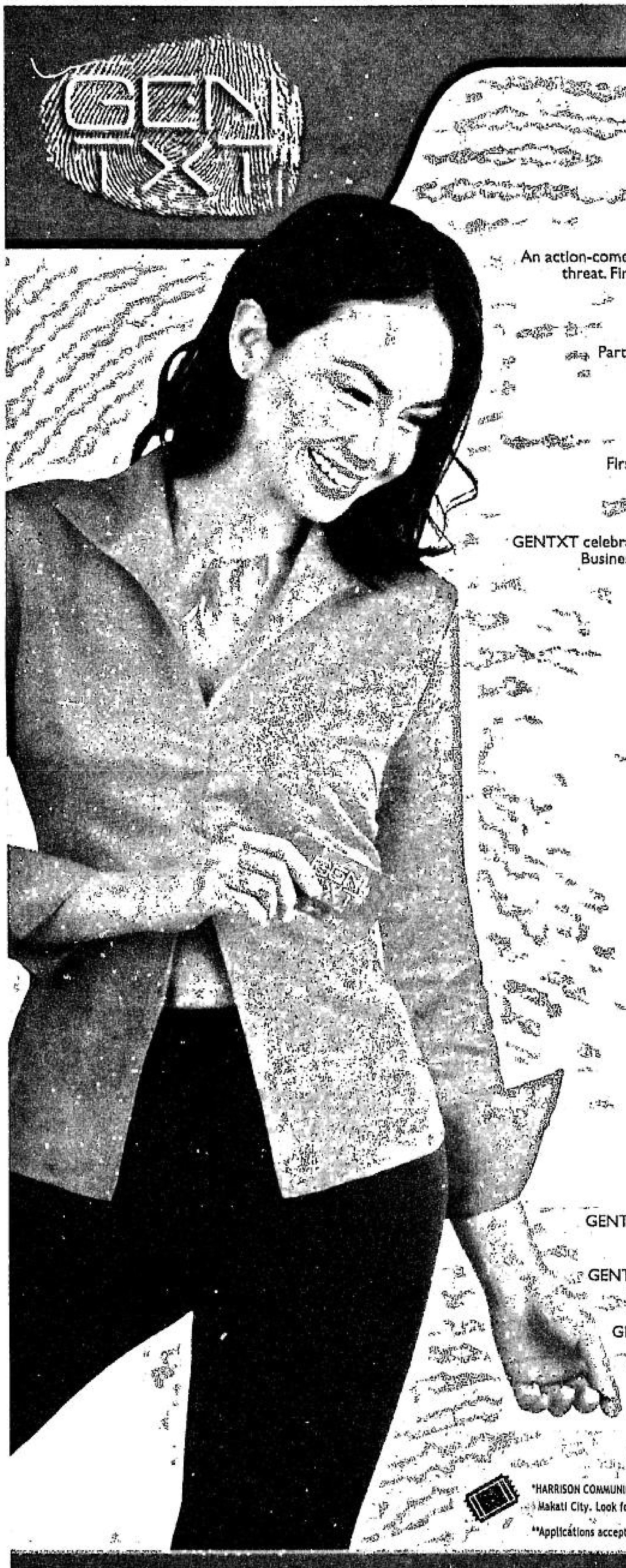

March Gig Guide

"Miss Congeniality", Advanced Screening 06
(In cooperation with Warner Bros. Pictures and RX Monster Radio 93.1)
An action-comedy on an FBI agent (Sandra Bullock) who joined the Miss United States beauty pageant to foil a bomb threat. First 20 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications* starting March 5 will get a pair of free tickets.
>> Shangri-La Cinema - 7:30 PM

GENTXT Night at Streetlife 10
Party all night at Streetlife! First 250 GENTXTers to flash their cards get free entrance, food and drinks.**
>> Streetlife, Glorietta - 7:30 PM

"The Wedding Planner", Advanced Screening 13
(In cooperation with Magic 89.9 DWTM)
A romantic comedy on love and destiny starring Jennifer Lopez and Matthew McConaughey. First 30 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications* starting March 12 will get a pair of free tickets.
>> SM Megamall - 7:30 PM

Araw ng Dabaw Celebration 16
GENTXT celebrates Araw ng Dabaw at The Venue! First 100 GENTXTers to go to the Globe Telecom Davao Menseng Business Center starting March 10 will get entrance stub with corresponding consumable food and drinks.**
>> The Venue, Davao - 9:00 PM

St. Patrick's Day at Bennigan's 17
GENTXT celebrates St. Patrick's Day! First 50 GENTXTers to dine at Bennigan's before the 17th will get an invitation for a free dinner buffet.
>> Bennigan's, Glorietta - 9:00 to 11:00 PM

Crossover Live 22
Bump-and-grind to the live music of Channels band! First 15 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications* starting March 21 will get a pair of free tickets.
>> Café Overdrive, Pasong Tamo Extension - 8:00 PM

South Border Live 28
Enjoy the exciting beat of South Border at 8th Day! First 25 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications* starting March 27 will get a pair of free entrance tickets.
>> 8th Day, St. Francis Square - 8:00 PM

Eyestorm 2 WHOLE MONTH
GENTXTers enjoy 30% discount on ck Calvin Klein eyewear and 40% discount on Nautica eyewear. Also, get a free ck Calvin Klein cellphone holder upon purchase of any of these 2 eyewear brands. Available exclusively at the following The Optical Shops: SM Megamall, SM City, SM Centerpoint, SM Southmall, SM Bacoor, SM Fairview, SM Cebu, Quad 1 Makati, Quad 3 Makati, Filinvest Festival Mall, Robinson's Place Ermita, and Ayala Center Cebu.

H20, Cebu WHOLE MONTH
GENTXTers get free entrance and free iced tea at H20, Cebu.

New Partners

Basilique
GENTXTers get a free iced tea for any food purchase and a free house specialty dessert for a minimum P500 purchase at Basilique, Amber Drive, Ortigas.

Excelsior Spa
GENTXTers enjoy a 10% discount on all services at the Excelsior Spa at Del Monte, Tomas Morato and Shaw branches.

Blugre Café, Davao
GENTXTers dig up on free pastry or coffee for a minimum P200 purchase on food and drinks at Blugre Café, Davao.

Zero Below, Cebu
GENTXTers get free entrance and 15% off for a minimum P500 purchase on food and drinks at Zero Below, Cebu.

*HARRISON COMMUNICATIONS is at the 4F First Life Center Bldg., 174 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Look for GENTXTer Cecile, flash your GENTXT card, and get your free tickets.
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- If ID has no indication of birthday, please bring an ID with your picture and the document bearing your birthdate (e.g. community tax certificate, SSS Card, birth, marriage or baptismal certificate).
- Membership fee of P200 to be paid upon approval of application.

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You can get and submit your application forms at all Globe Telecom Business Centers and selected GENTXT events.

Check out the latest GENTXT events through your Globe Handyphone. Just key in GENTXT, then send to 2333.

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WROUGHT IRON GALORE. The stylized quatrefoil, lampshade with a mini spiral staircase for a stand and the table's legs are all fashioned from the same material.

ROMAN TIME. A 24-inch diameter clock patterned from Mactan stone and mounted on a wrought-iron stand is displayed atop an antique Chinese cabinet in the den.

A Cebu-based export firm has been making Mediterranean furniture pieces out of Mactan stone, wrought iron and distressed wood that have landed in the showrooms of the West

Minor classics

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Bobot Meru

PAUL and Janice Minor have always found ways to mix business with pleasure whenever they tour exotic locales in Spain, Italy and Morocco. The wealth of images the friendly American and his lovely Filipino wife have been exposed to abroad is enough to inspire them to come up with a thousand and one ideas for their thriving export business.

Janice Minor Export Inc., their Cebu-based company, has been into Mediterranean-inspired home accessories like hand-blown glass lamps, stone accents and furniture pieces made of distressed wood, rivets and various wrought-iron patterns since it was formed in 1986. The company now employs close to 450 people working in three factories. Around 60 percent of its products are exported directly to the United States.

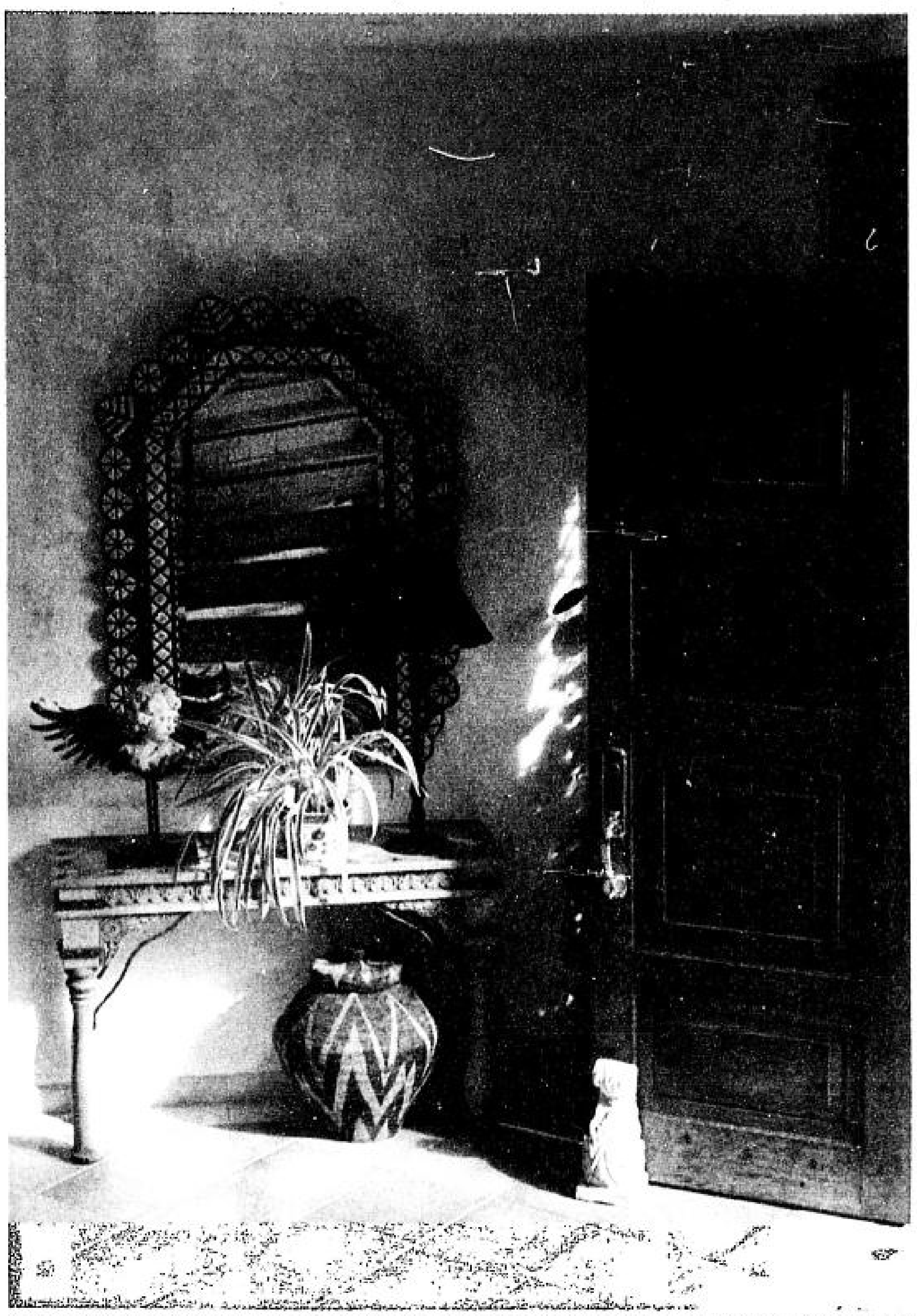
Aside from being sources of inspiration, the Minors' travels abroad have lately become a source of pride and reassurance as well.

"We were walking down Fifth Avenue in New York," says Janice, a former Miss Cebu and now the company's marketing director, "when we saw one of our products from the display window of one of those trendy shops. I was thrilled even though I've seen other items do well in trade shows before."

Janice, of course, is referring to their Roman-inspired, 24-inch diameter clock molded from Mactan stone and perched on an artsy wrought-iron stand by the den. The antique-looking piece has been selling by the thousands since it was launched several years ago.

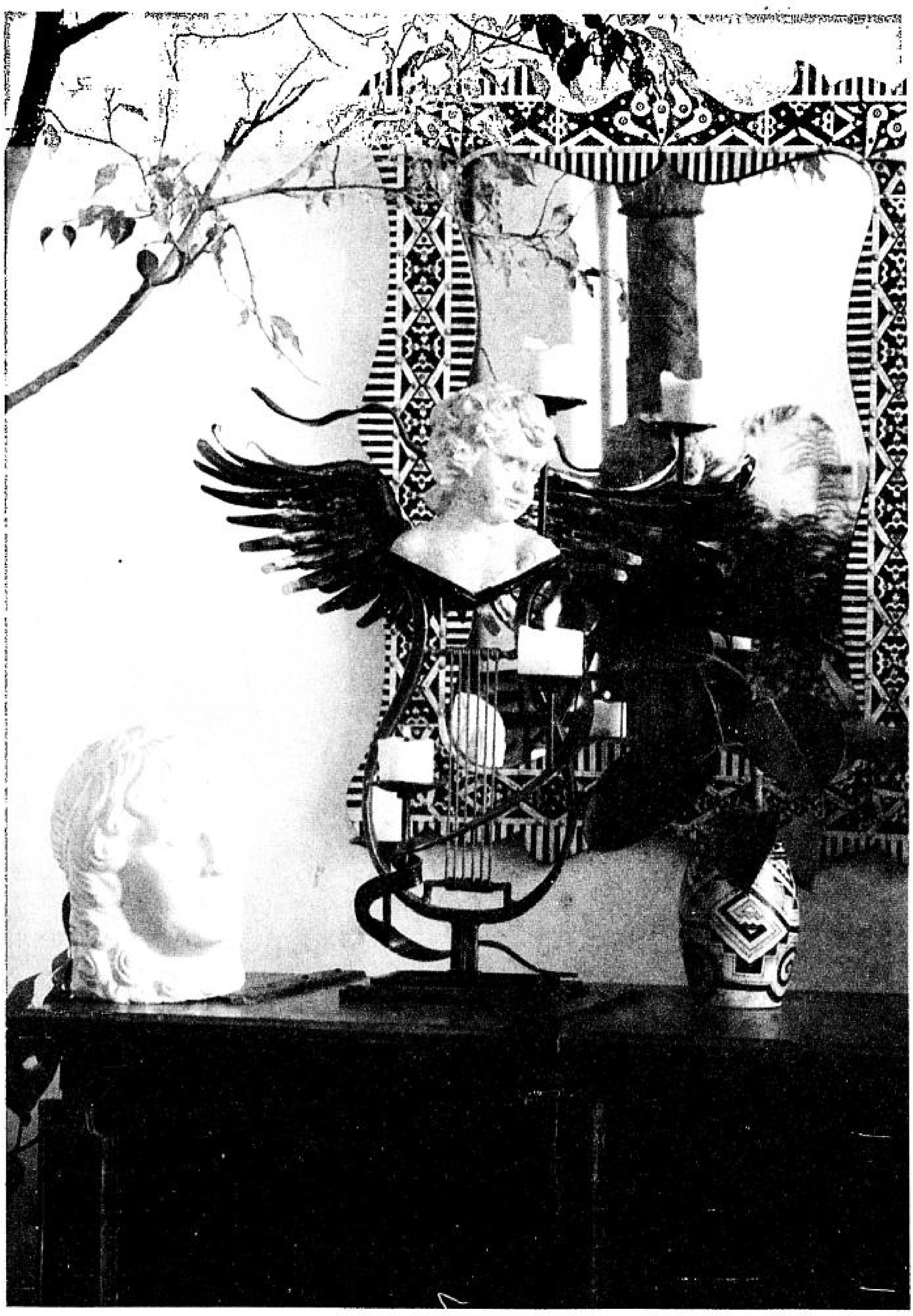
"More and more Americans seem to go for anything with an antique feel," she observes. "A growing fascination for anything Spanish—from Hispanic celebrities singing Spanish songs like Ricky Martin to Christina Aguilera—is also becoming evident."

They sell their products directly to American buyers, who, in turn, pass them on to some of the biggest retailers in the US, such as Neiman Marcus, John Richards Collection and Hilda Flack Furniture. Although some products may or may not carry the local company's name, each item is proudly labeled "Made in the Philippines."



AN INDIAN-INSPIRED console table with rivets and carved edges blends seamlessly with the angel figure, lampshade, Moroccan mirror and old door from Italy.

GLASS-TOPPED wrought-iron table with matching chairs also made of metal for those Sunday breakfasts and lazy afternoon *meriendas*.

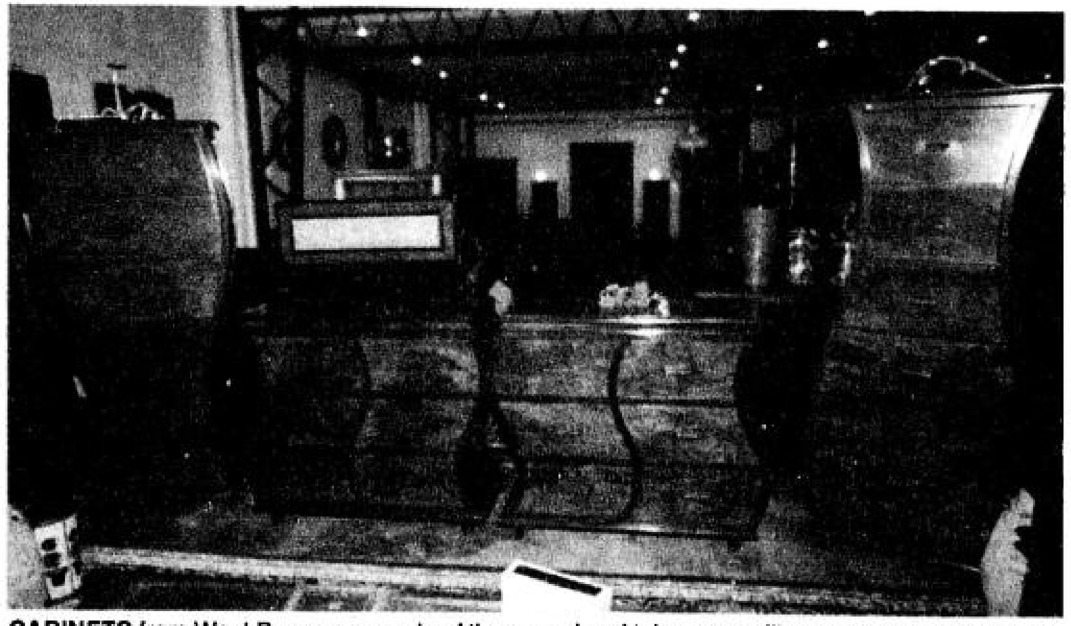


EARTH ANGEL. One of Janice's best-selling pieces, a cherub's bust resting on a wrought-iron piece fashioned like a lyre, has found a place on their faux antique table made of rivets, hinges and distressed wood. The Roman head is an original Paul brought home from one of their travels, while the American-Indian-inspired ceramic vase is one of the company's earlier pieces. The mirror is from Morocco.

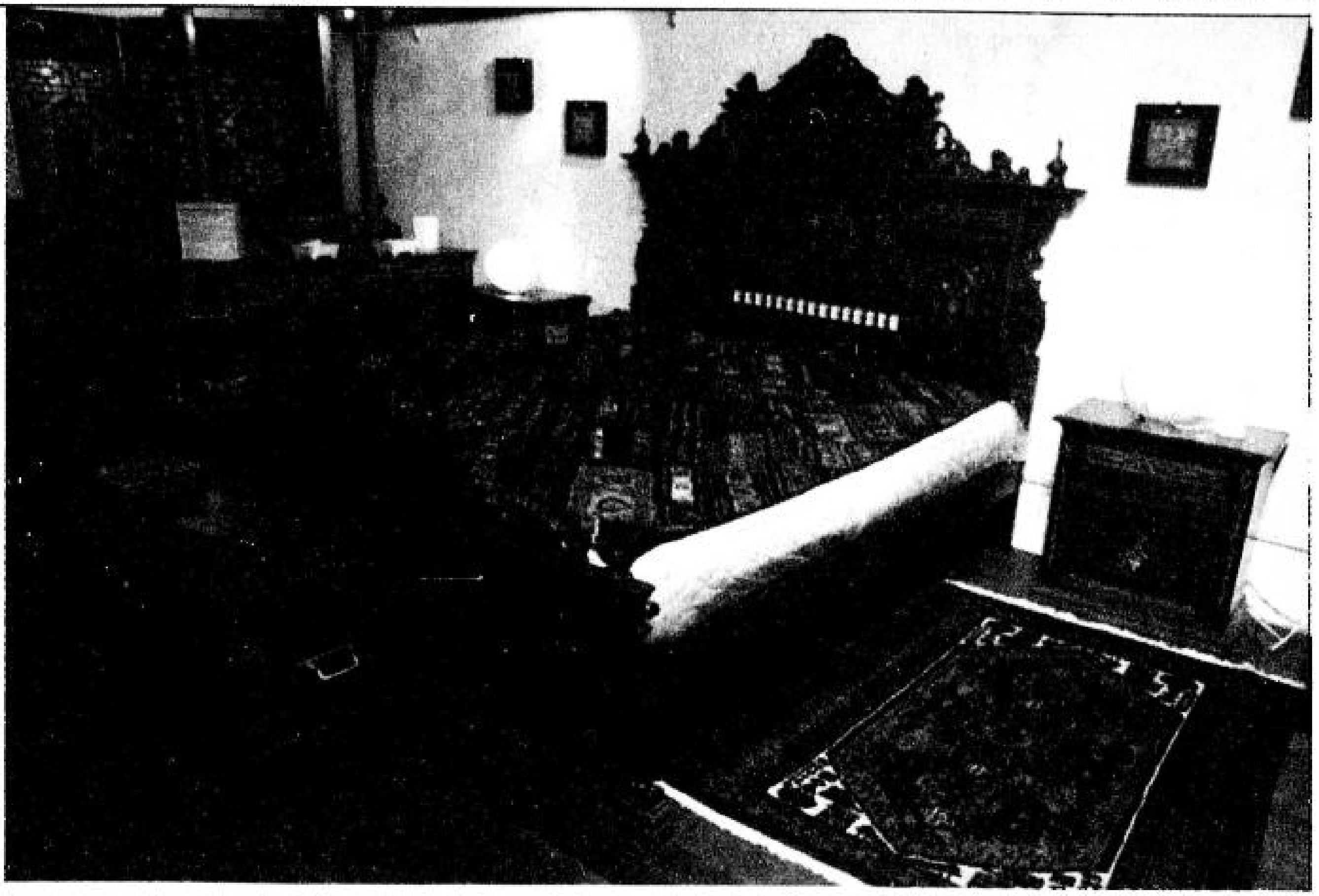
And that's good enough for Paul, the company's president and a native of Sacramento, California. He met his future wife while doing business in Cebu. Janice, the landlord's daughter, used to collect Paul's monthly rent. They became sweethearts in June 1984, and got married by November of that year. Janice is expecting their first child a few months from now.

Before that, Paul used to travel all over the world as a buyer for antique shops in the US. The couple shares a love for fine furniture that dates back to before they became converts to the Moorish style.

MINOR/ p.D7



CABINETS from West Papua are made of tiger wood and take on curvilinear shapes. Tall version has six drawers, the shorter one, four. Decorative panel with Chinese dragon design sits atop it.



NAGA "queen" bed with semi-inclined head board, a colonial piece from the late 18th century. Night table beside it is a matching piece with seven sides.

Rare antiques from the Himalayas

BY DORIS G. NUYDA

ORIENTIQUE Enterprises has opened shop (No. 7 Pine St., Mandaluyong) for various reasons. The primary one is the Filipino propensity for beautiful, old furnishings with their distinct styles, especially those from neighboring Asian and Pacific countries. Second are the owners' own love for unique, old furniture and their belief that since such furniture belong to bygone eras, they are historically valuable as well.

An antique collector and dealer of Persian carpets for many years, Mohammad Q. Arshad came to the Philippines in 1977 to explore business opportunities in Manila. Obviously liking what he saw, he opened shop on Pasay Road, Makati, in 1979. The carpet business, incidentally, he inherited from his parents in Pakistan.

As the close of the Marcos era in the '80s was an unsettling one, he thought of moving his antique furniture shop to Jakarta for a while. But he soon returned and continued business here.

In between, he married a Filipina, Lolita Bersabe, whose interest in antiques was as keen as his. They are now parents of three, the eldest, Shala, a student of a business course at De La Salle University, quite determined to take her place in her parents' business soon.

Last year, says Arshad, they found this roomy warehouse in Mandaluyong, which they thought ideal as display room, storage and office combined. It is now filled from floor to ceiling with living room sets, cabinets, beds, single chairs, side tables, carpets, of all sizes and shapes, their provenance distinctly stamped on each. Even before Orientique was officially opened, people were streaming in to buy and to see.

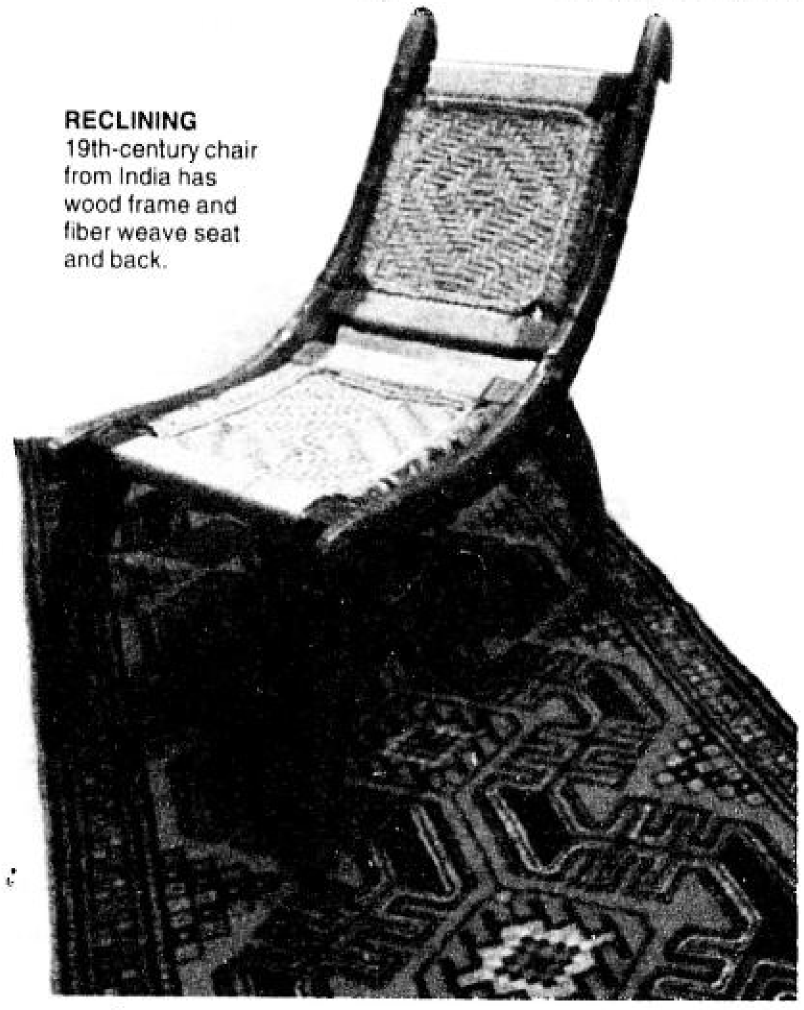
The Arshads have set it up as a one-stop quality shop for Asian furniture, antiques, carpets and novelty gift items from India, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Iran (Persia), Afghanistan, China and the Himalayas.

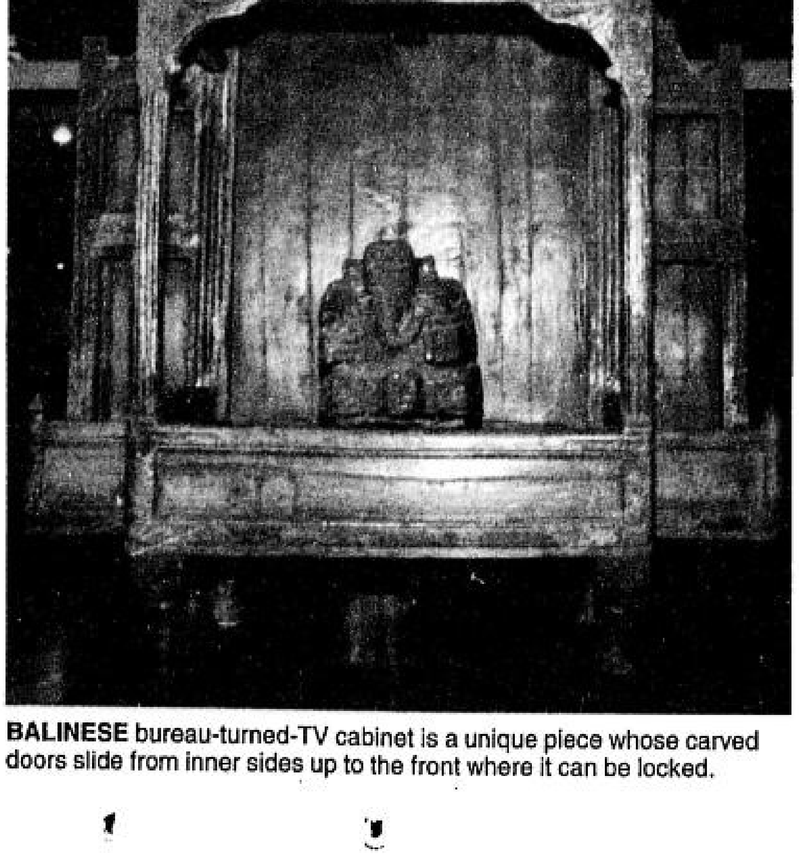
It is not surprising to learn, therefore, that Arshad, an old hand at the business, travels extensively for his acquisitions. Those trips offer adventure besides new finds. The pieces from Naga in the Himalayas, for example, are for him, quite exceptional, not only in their workmanship but also because of their rarity value. Accessibility to that Himalayan tribal community is difficult, and often impossible, which is why he never misses an opportunity to visit the place and come home with something from it.

So it is that when Orientique Enterprises opened its doors to antique and Orientalia aficionados on Feb. 8 this year, it unfolded its array of furniture pieces and the stories of the culture that produced them. Arshad can tell you all that.

> Since the furniture belong to bygone eras, they are historically valuable

RECLINING 19th-century chair from India has wood frame and fiber weave seat and back.





BALINESE bureau-turned-TV cabinet is a unique piece whose carved doors slide from inner sides up to the front where it can be locked.

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In The Hub of technology

BY CHERISH GARCIA HERNANDEZ

IF someone asked me what the greatest invention of the 20th century was, I would say the telephone. It enabled news to travel faster and made it easier for people to keep in touch. And the telephone's contribution to society does not even end there. When the fax machine first came out everyone was amazed at its instantaneous ability to transmit documents. Then came the information super highway that is the Internet. Suddenly information was readily available at the click of a button.

> Globe has opened the telecom shop of the future while several electronics firms have introduced products that will take us farther into the future

SIEMENS A36

Picture this. You get up in the morning and turn on your computer. Over a bowl of cereal, you access the local papers as well as the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal. You also check your mail, receive some pictures from a wedding you attended over the weekend, which a friend had taken with his pocket-sized digital camera. You see another friend online through ICQ and you chat even if he is several time zones away. Of course, you do all this with some great MP3s that you downloaded last night playing in the background. You then flip open your PDA to check your schedule for the day. Over lunch, telephone numbers and addresses are passed on without the need for a pen and paper. How? Just beam it to my Palm or Visor, please. The future is indeed here and technology is continuing its development in an extremely rapid pace. I remember how, back in college, I had to stack up on P2 coins just in case I needed to make a phone call. Nowadays one would be hard-pressed to find someone who doesn't own a cellular phone.

Recently Globe Telecom opened The Hub at Glorietta 4. This is the telecom shop of the future. Not only does it carry all shapes and sizes of every conceivable phone in the market, it carries original Nokia accessories as well. The store itself is very high-tech in design. The Lucite floor that greets you as you enter gives a "Saturday Night Fever"-meets-"The Jetsons" sort of feeling. In the center of the store are several cellular phones that anyone can try out. You can check out the phone's features, send text messages and even make phone calls. There are also two very sleek computers where you can fill out paperless applications for Globe lines. The exciting thing about The Hub though is they have all these high-tech gadgets. Not just phones either, these are things that even James Bond's Q would certainly approve of!

BACK TO THE FUTURE. The Hub, Globe Telecom's hot new shop at Glorietta 4, is a must-visit with its interactive, hands-on shopping.

SPACE-AGE CHIC. Sleek display cases flaunt the latest models of Handyphones—and even products not yet in the market.

Here are a few items worth checking out:

Sony ICD-70 PC recorder

This tiny recorder doesn't need a tape. All messages are recorded on an IC chip and the digital voice-operated recording stops automatically when there is no sound. This helps the user increase productivity and record longer voice messages, notes or audio e-mail. (Yes, you can compose voice e-mail and send it over the Internet)

Canon Digital Camera Power Shot S100 (IXUS)

This is the smallest digital camera you can get with a resolution of about 2 mega pixels. That means it takes good, clear pictures. Remember that digital cameras don't need film and although purists may turn their noses up to digital photography, the proliferation of digital cameras clearly tells us that this is the future. This camera also has NTSC, which means you can view your photographs on your television as well as your PC or Mac.

NOKIA 3310

Ericsson MP3 Player

MP3s are not sending compact discs the way of vinyl just yet but they are giving them a run for their money. This MP3 Player can be controlled totally by mobile phone. In case of incoming calls, the music is automatically interrupted to switch the earphone's signal over to the call. There's no need for batteries because it is powered by any standard mobile phone battery and you get around 30 minutes of audio.

Compaq Pocket PC

This is one of the lightest handheld devices out there and it has Windows-based operating features. Although the Palm is currently dominating the PDA market, there is a new generation of PDAs made by computer companies that have advantages like pocket versions of Word, Excel, Internet Explorer and Outlook. This is one of them. This combines a real Intel processor, new hardware, and sleek, individual design. It comes with a mike and speaker. Internet connectivity is achieved through an add-on modem.

Sony MZR90 Minidisc Recorder

The mini disc never quite got off the ground but the popularity of MP3s might just change that. This new-generation Minidisc player, which is Sony's smallest and lightest, is incredibly user-friendly, small enough to fit in your pocket, and it can record. Can your Discman compete with that?

Siemens IC35 digital diary

This is like a mini-computer cum PDA. It is the ultimate unifier with a keypad instead of the usual handheld stylus. It is designed for use in conjunction with a mobile phone as it includes WAP browser and supports SMS and fax in addition to e-mail applications. It also enables editing of a mobile phone book and changing of phone features.

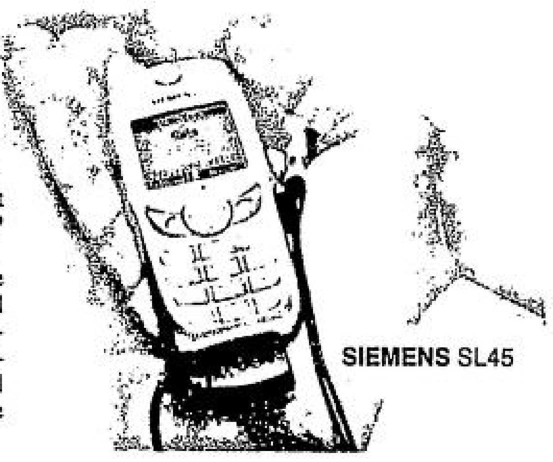
And of course the latest Nokia phones:

8890

This is the ultimate phone for anyone who travels a lot. It is practically triband and it has automatic network selection. In other words, if you're going to the US, you no longer need to rent a phone to roam there. It also has a real-time clock, voice dialing, picture messaging, predictive text input and it comes in a sexy matte aluminum cover.

8250

Aside from an ergonomically designed keypad, this phone has an electric blue display. It also has a built-in SMS chat feature and infrared and internal data for cordless communication. It also has the ability to send and download picture messages.


SIEMENS SL45

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Price-buster sale

UNTIL MARCH 4, Bobson, one of the leading manufacturers of men and ladies' casual wear, brings down its prices at all SM Department Stores nationwide with its much-awaited "Price-Buster Sale." Get your money's worth without compromising quality and fashion as you avail as much as 50 percent discount off the original prices of Bobson's funky lines of clothing.

GOINGS-ON

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER. The Reaching Out for the Lord (ROL) Series of the Tuklasan Sector, Marriage Encounter Foundation of the Phils., will sponsor a Marriage Encounter seminar on March 9-11 at the Mirador Jesuit Villa (atop Our Lady of Lourdes grotto), Baguio City. The weekend seminar is ideal for married couples seeking fulfillment and rejuvenation. The three-day seminar aims to redirect their relationship viewed in the context of Christian love. Call 806-2697, 565-4901, 842-4220, 536-8451, 807-2467 or 807-3338. Registration is until today.

EXHIBIT. Asiana Airlines will feature its Sleeper seats at the 8th Annual Philippine Travel Agencies Association (PTAA) Travel Tour Expo 2001 until March 4 at SM Megatrade Halls 1and 2. Discounts and special promos will be available for passengers who will book their flights during the exhibit or join the Asiana Club mileage program.

Package tours in commemoration of Visit Korea Year 2001 will be offered.

LECTURE. The Philosophy Department of Miriam College, with the Women and Gender Institute (WAGI), Philippine School for Feminist Philosophies and Miriam Women Society holds a lecture series on "Revaluating the Definition of Woman," on March 5 at the SMT Conference Room, Miriam College. Call 435-9234.

TRIBUTE. The Ateneo Library of Women's Writings (ALIWW) pays tribute to Nieves Baens-del Rosario, a noted fictionist, essayist and poet on March 7 at the Social Science Audio-Visual Room, Loyola Campus.

TOSM AWARDS. The City of Makati holds the 25th Annual Proclamation of the Ten Outstanding Students of Makati (TOSM) today at 5 p.m., at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCIBank Tower 1 Building, Makati Avenue corner H.V dela Costa Street, Makati City.

FURNITURE SHOW. The 7th National Furniture, Furnishing, Fashion Festival Show, organized by Prime Asia Trade Planners and Convention Organizers (PATEPCO) is ongoing until March 4 at the Greenhills Shopping Center. Call 826-8162/-6732 or 820-3862.

ENROLLMENT DISCOUNTS. The Little Gym offers a 10-percent discount on enrollment fees for all early-bird enrollees who sign up for the summer programs on or before March 4. Call 890-1019, 637-2463 or 850-4060.

CONFERENCE. The American Studies Association of Palawan hosts a conference on environment and eco-tourism dubbed "Living Environment, Sharing Communities," today at CAP Development Center, Puerto Princesa City. The day-long conference is being held with Holy Trinity College, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Public Affairs Section of the US Embassy.

Call (048)433-2161 or 434-3440, or e-mail jojo88@atenista.net.

PLAY. Miriam College Child Study Center presents a two-act play dubbed "Ang Munting Kaibigan sa Bituin," on March 6-9 at the Miriam College Marian Auditorium. Tickets are available at the Marian Auditorium entrance.

SPECIAL CELEBRATION. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will be the guest speaker at the joint celebration of International Women's Day organized by the Unifem Philippine Committee with Zonta Foundation Philippines and Zonta International District 17 on March 7, 5-7 p.m., at the Centennial Hall, Manila Hotel. All Unifem and Zonta members are requested to attend.

FORUM. Cosmopolitan and FHM will hold an informal talk and open forum at the Filipinas Heritage Library on March 9, 6:30 p.m. Featured speakers are editors Myrza Sison (Cosmopolitan) and Eric Ramos (FHM). Call 892-1801.

SEMINAR. Proactive Center for Training (PACT) holds a seminar on food management on March 12-16, 1-5 p.m., at Triple V Express, 2/L Bridgeway, SM Megamall, Edsa, Mandaluyong City. Call 823-4947.

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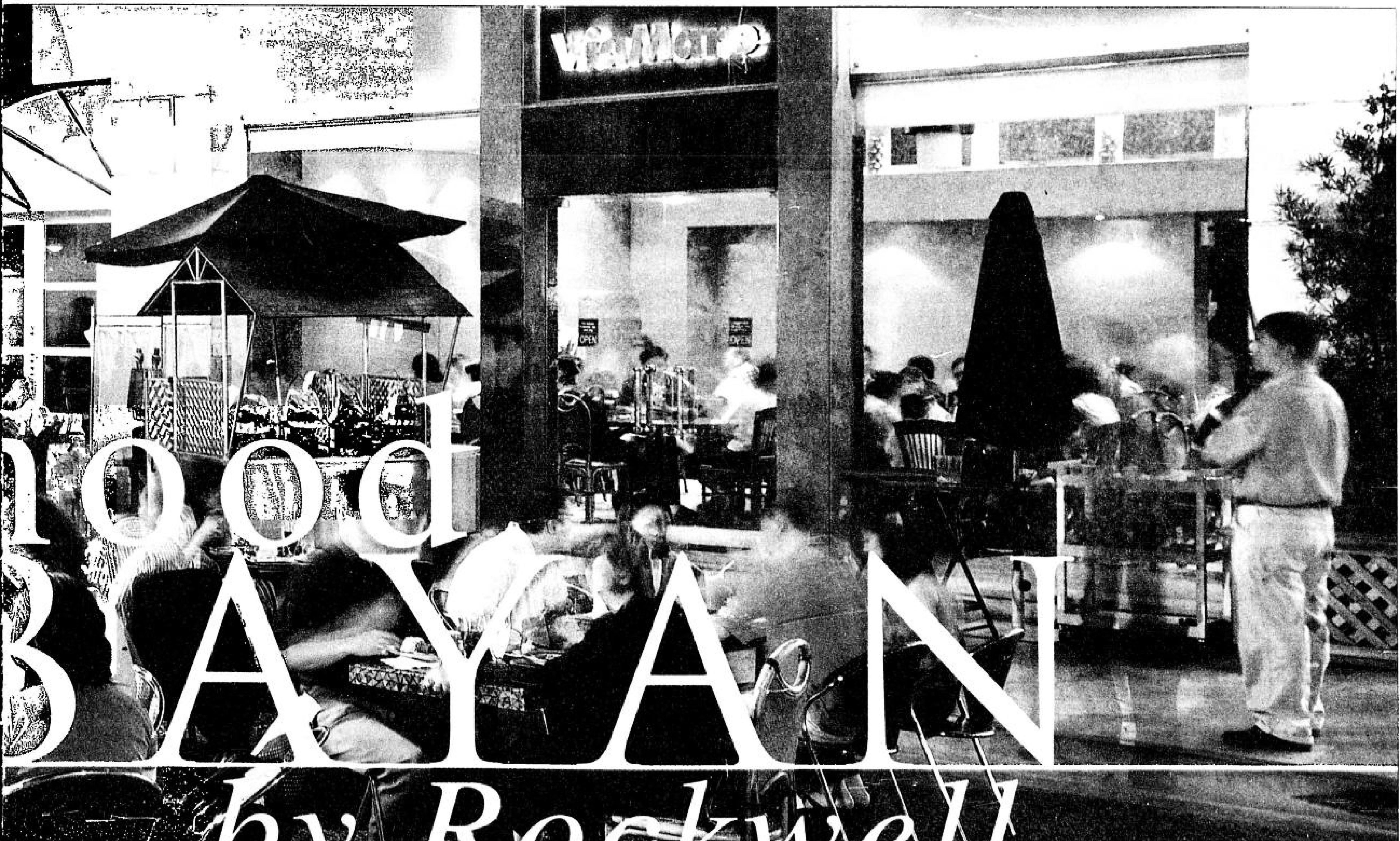

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Magnificence in black and white

By Marge C. Enriquez

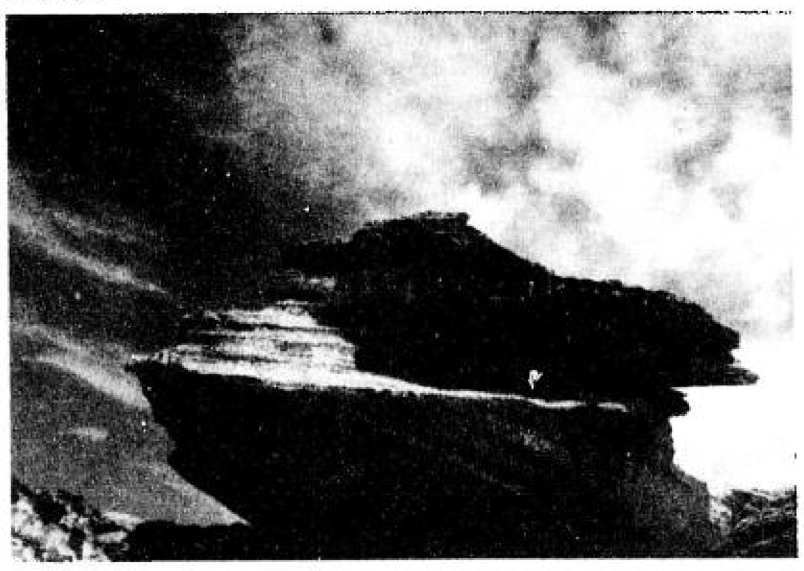
THERE'S an exacting quality to Denise Weldon-Miñana's photographs that might put a Renaissance iconographer to shame. It is part of the perfectionism that she is known for.

You've probably seen her photographs such as Diether Ocampo for Zui spray and celebrity portraits in glossy magazines. Once in a while, artists, whether in the visual or performing arts, will make time off from commercial work and give in to their creative urges.

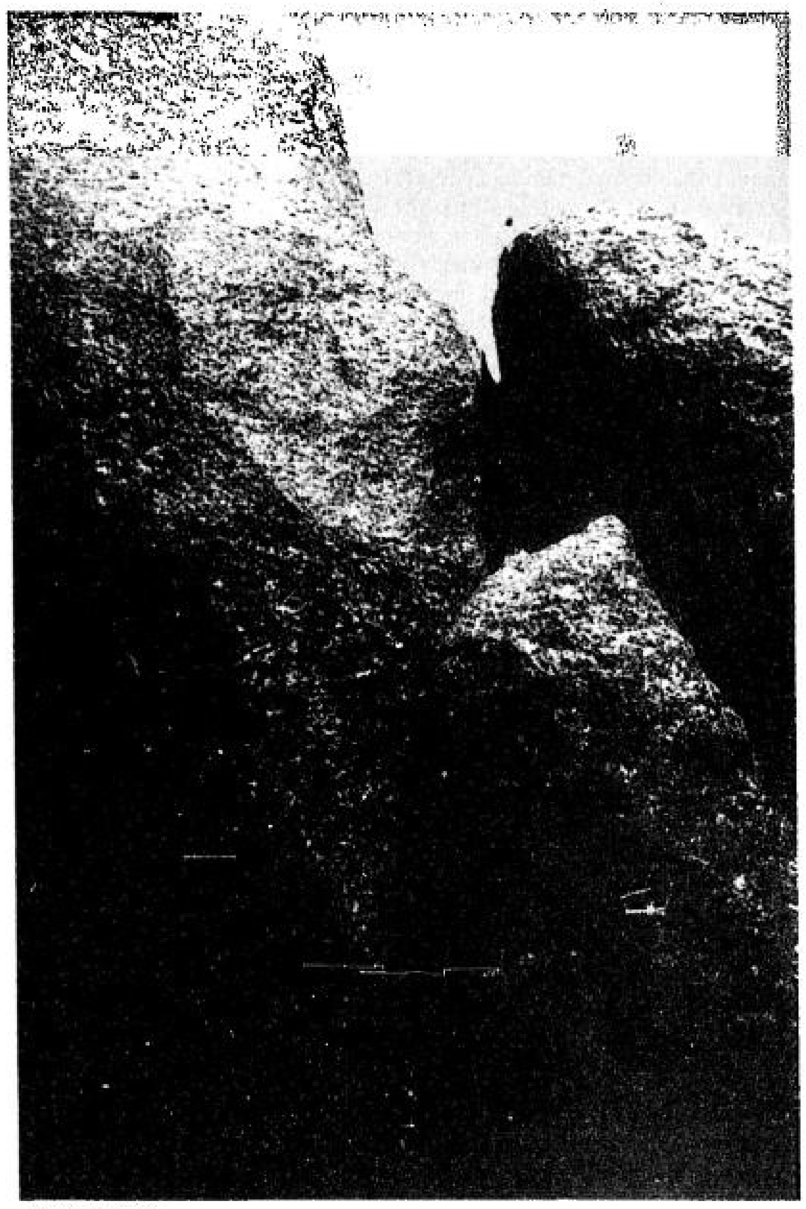
Tomorrow, March 3, Denise will open a show of her new black-and-white Iris prints at the Luz Gallery.

> Denise Weldon-Miñana's Iris prints expose a world of quiet, stark stillness, that nevertheless tingles with a unique artistic vision

"ROOTS"



"ROCKET Rock"



"ROCK Trio"

Earthy images

The subject matter is close to her heart or, shall we say, her zodiac, Virgo, an earth sign.

The photographs consist of details, textures and forms of boulders and plants that were taken in South Africa and in Asia. With an eye for perspective, structure, form and detail, she cares about what she's creating.

Between people-oriented assignments, Denise hies off to the countryside to shoot nature and landscapes with her Mamiya 645C and Nikon. She would focus on textures and shapes of plants and boulders. Compared with her last exhibit, the images in this show are stronger and more striking.

An exhibit is a venue where the artist can unravel his or herself. When Denise photographs, she likes simplicity, rawness, earthiness and a bit of kitsch, revealing a childlike quality in her.

In the future she hopes to use her photography in promoting social consciousness

"I hate porno or images that degrade women. I hate subjects that put down the human spirit. I want subjects that elevate it."

"FERN Head"

Color-fixated

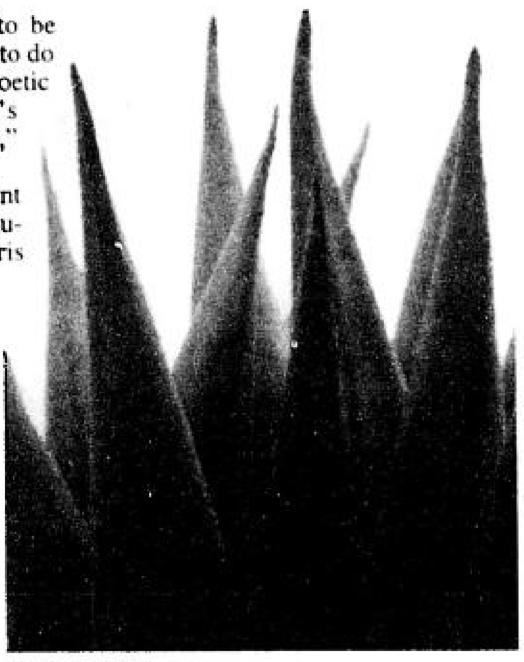
To be invited by National Artist for Visual Arts Arturo Luz to exhibit in his gallery is a great honor. Luz was impressed with Denise's works that were shown at the Galleria Duemila in 1999.

"Her subjects tend to be simple. She knows what to do with them. She's rather poetic in the subject even if it's just a leaf or vegetable," says Luz.

Denise's "A Quiet Point of View" exhibit was arguably the first to use Iris printing.

"Iris printing is a digital printing process which has been accepted as fine art," explains Denise. "It's printed in watercolor paper which is a hundred-percent pulp. When it is scanned you have a magnificent image that's archival."

Used by master printmakers and artists, this process produces museum-quality prints that can't be distinguished from the originals. Unlike the lithographic methods used to mass-produce limited-edition prints, the Iris process reproduces the artist's most subtle details. They are extremely crisp and sharp. The Iris graphic printers spray archival water-based dyes onto 100-percent cotton, acid-free paper. The pigments are taken up into the fibers to give realism with powerful, drenched colors along with tints and blends.



"SPIKES 2"

"They are exquisite. They look like little paintings. We can't do it here. They have to be processed in Singapore and US," adds Luz.

For a photograph to be in a gallery, it must be an art form more than must a record of a subject. Black-and-white photography is dramatic and artistic, and more challenging than color. However, the Filipino has grown accustomed to color photographs that black-and-white seem so exotic.

"Manila is a color-fixated market. Even magazines are hesitant to shoot in black-and-white," observes Denise.

One reason is that there are few laboratories or professionals who process black-and-white films properly, therefore making the process more expensive. However, serious photographers pursue their art at any cost.

Sophistication

In the past 30 years, photographs in the West have been considered fine art, that they are replacing the paintings in offices and homes. Just take a look at Architectural Digest or other interior design magazines, the walls are dominated by striking images of unknown faces, still life and landscapes that lend a modern feel to the ambience

"Photographs on their own are beautiful," Luz says. "They should not be expected to substitute a painting. It's a world unto itself. Photographs are popular in the US market. Any museum specializes in photographs or they have good photo sections and photo files, but not in the Philippines. There are a few photo exhibits and there are few quality photo exhibits. We need to make and do more."

At the Luz Gallery, you won't find works of dilettantes who do highly technical glossy products.

"Appreciating photography requires a considerable amount of sophistication. You don't go for something illustrative or decorative. You want things creative," he says.

Asked if photographs will sell the same way as paintings, Luz replies, "People go for names even in photographs but this is not bad. They go for the quality of what they see. Good photographs will sell no matter by whom, the same as paintings."

Denise Weldon-Miñana's photographs will be on view until March 22 at the Luz Gallery, located at Locsin Building, Ayala corner Makati Avenue

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What's right, what's not about RP coral reefs

IF you've marveled at the beauty, color and diversity of undersea, especially in our coral reefs, then the new book, "Philippine Coral Reefs, A Natural History Guide" by Alan T. White (Bookmark, 2nd edition, 2001), will sharpen your interest further.

SEEING GREEN

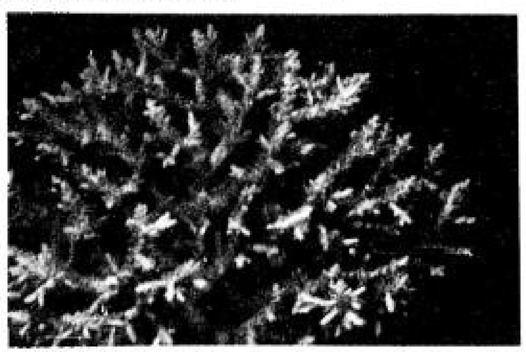
Doris Gaskell Nuyda

When I first read this book, I realized, as all uninitiated probably would, that I had to go back to it again and again to really understand the busy world under the ocean. But even if you've already visited this watery frontier as a professional scuba diver or marine biologist or as a student, the book is sure to enhance and update your knowledge by its detailed descriptions, its classifications and great photos taken by various enthusiasts including White himself.

From the author's descriptions and text, one gets a good idea of how familiar he is with this world, unknown to many of us landlubbers, and how much he loves working in and for it. He has, in fact, several books on the subject to his credit.

White's biodata on the book's inside cover informs us that he has been diving in Philippine reefs since 1978 while a Peace Corps volunteer. He later joined the Silliman University Marine Laboratory in Dumaguete City to help establish the Sumilon Island Marine Park, the first municipal government coral reef protected area in the Philippines. He has since become involved in other marine conservation programs, and furthered his educational attainments. Today he is deputy chief of party of the Coastal Resources Management Project in the Philippines, supported by the US Agency for International Development and "continues to scuba dive and monitor coral reefs in the Philippines."

STARFLOWER coral



TUBULAR branching coral

The book, as its title informs us, is a guide. The different species and classes of reef life—plant (algae, seagrasses), fish, invertebrate (sponges, crustaceans, mollusks, etc.) and animal (reptiles, mammals) are listed, often with accompanying photos, for easy identification.

Philippine Coral Reefs
A Natural History Guide
A Guide to the Birds of the Philippines
Resources at Risk
Philippine MARSHLANDS

THE BOOK'S cover

Those who are used to seeing the underwater world as a big panorama of swaying seagrasses, ever-moving fishes of all colors and sizes, get to know each reef denizen in closeup. For the neophyte, it is bound to be an overwhelming introduction.

First, there is a description of the coral reefs and how nature created them hundreds of thousands of years ago. Then we learn of the different zones in which the reefs thrive (high water or supratidal, mean tide or inter-tidal and low water or subtidal). The lower and deeper the submersion of the reefs, the more abundant are coral growths and living creatures in it.

Like most living things, however, these undersea creatures are subject to stress like exposure to wave action and predators among their kind, and lately, man.

Underwater gardens

White helps us to understand why animals and plants keep close to other living things in their ocean habitat, and why coral reefs look like gardens. These "gardens," he explains, are actually groupings of seagrasses, anemones, sponges, polyps and different corals where coral animals like jellyfish, crustaceans, mollusks, moss animals and seamats and a host of fishes, make their home. They group together in symbiosis, for protection and food. There is much interaction among the coral-fish community, spurred on by water current and waves, sunlight and plankton. Movement here can be slow, as in the swaying of the grasses, but it can also be frenetic as when schools of fish flash back and forth. But always, there is rhythm.

To the environmentalist, the book provides further proof of why our oceans and coastal waters must be protected. It is common knowledge that coral reefs are habitats and breeding ground of many types of undersea life, which are necessary to maintain healthy ecosystems. They also provide man with a rich, nutritious source of food.

Of the plant life, algae perform an important ecological role. They are primary producers of photosynthesis, meaning "they capture the sun's energy and use it to produce sugars and other complex compounds by storing energy." In this way, they manufacture organic food and oxygen—two very important substances for sustaining life on this planet.

Food from under the sea

Among the edible algae, there is the green *lato,* used for salads. There are the brown types eaten by people in Northern Luzon. There are also those that look like "fleshy, tangled twigs" (varying in color from red to emerald green) known as *peso* and *gulamang dagat.*

Substances from these algae (phycocolloids) are also used commercially in the preparation of food, drugs and cosmetics, and are becoming important export products.

Seagrasses, like algae, are also primary producers and are grazed on by sea turtles, *dugong* and some fish. People use them as fuel in dried form, as packing material, fodder, fertilizer and in some areas, as food.

Every now and then White inserts negative data on the reefs, which should serve as warnings to environmentalists as well as divers, fishermen and all those who use the ocean in one way or another. He does not put these down in whole chapters, but what he says about the future status of coral reefs in the Philippines should be warning enough.

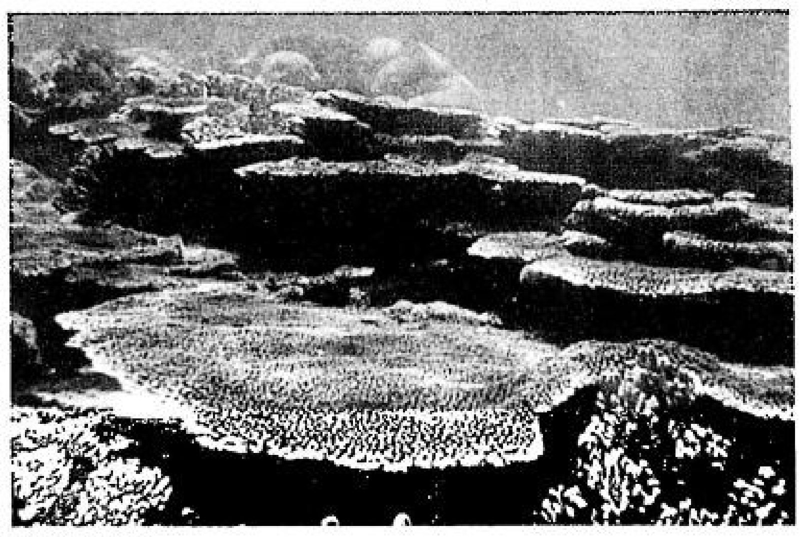
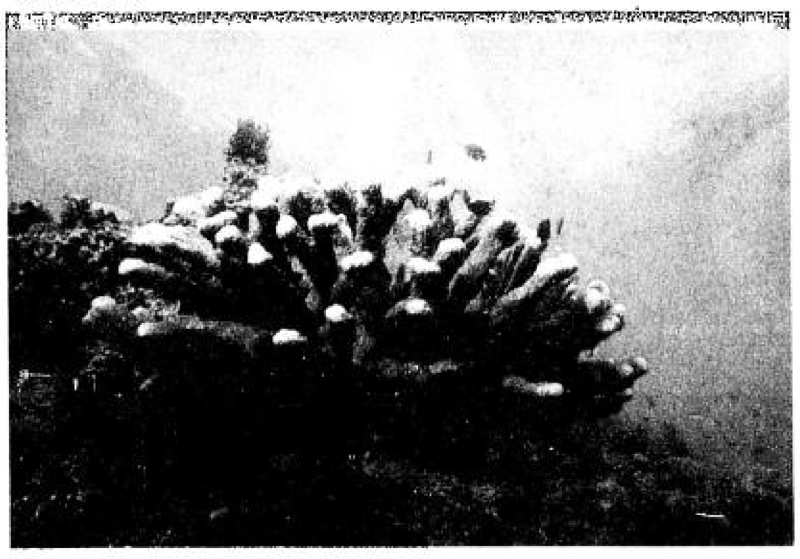


TABLE coral



SOME corals, found in Philippine reefs: columnar branching coral

It is not good, he says, "when we consider that the many human impacts affecting reefs are increasing. Less than 5 percent of reefs in the Philippines are still in excellent condition. The shorelines of many large islands... have all but lost coral reef growth due to increased silt in the water and other forms of pollution. This is attributed to population growth and coastal development that does not prevent environmental impacts."

White also mentions "physically destructive fishing methods, overfishing, boat anchors and other intrusions which have reduced natural production of useful reef organisms for human consumption and other economic uses.

"This decline in natural productivity," he concludes, " causes poverty and the loss of potential revenues from a marine tourism market."

Woes of stranded airport passengers

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

ALWAYS check early enough if your flight schedule is okay. And to avoid the usual hassles, be prepared for flight delays or cancellations, especially if you have nowhere to go when it occurs. As it happens, some airline companies just don't give a damn if their passengers go hungry or if they sleep on the bench while waiting for the next flight.

We were among the unfortunate passengers last Sunday who did not know that our 3:30 p.m. flight to Laoag was to be delayed for seven hours. Finally, when we were airborne at 10:30, PAL compensated by serving dinner on board: a box of Jollibee's one piece chicken meal. But woe to the vegetarians on board.

Unfortunately for our dinner host in Laoag, it was too late when he learned of the delay. We thank our caring dinner host, Nonong Ablan of Palazzio de Laoag, who waited up several hours in his restaurant and kept warm the authentic Ilocano dishes until we arrived. The following native dishes never tasted so good: fried river *hito*, the Katuday and Pukpuklao (native seaweed) Salad, Balatong, Ilokano Caldereta, Dinuguan, and many more.

Parking hassles

T. MERCADO has good reasons to gripe about the P30 parking fee at the Ortigas Center parking facility, specifically at the Pearl Drive area.

He wrote to us: "The guards slap you right away with the parking fee even if you are just stepping out of your car. This is a contrast to the cordial treatment I get from the Makati Park guards who are considerate enough to waive the fee when I park my car for only a few minutes.

"I wish the Ortigas Center guard near Pearl Drive will be considerate enough. They should also wear uniform and identification card," Mercado wrote.

No official receipt at carpark

From Nicholas Y of Megamall: "Like other stores at Megamall, I always issue official receipts and I expect other stores to do the same, as required by the Megamall management. Last Feb. 6, however, the cashier at the parking area said she could not issue a receipt because the machine was out of order. I asked her for a signed provisional receipt which was reluctantly issued. It took her 25 minutes to do it. Why do I have to ask for my official receipt all the time?

DTI replies to reader's query

E. Landicho of Los Baños, Laguna sent us an e-mail questioning the replacement fee added on to the price tag of two items sold at Abenson's in Waltermart-Calamba.

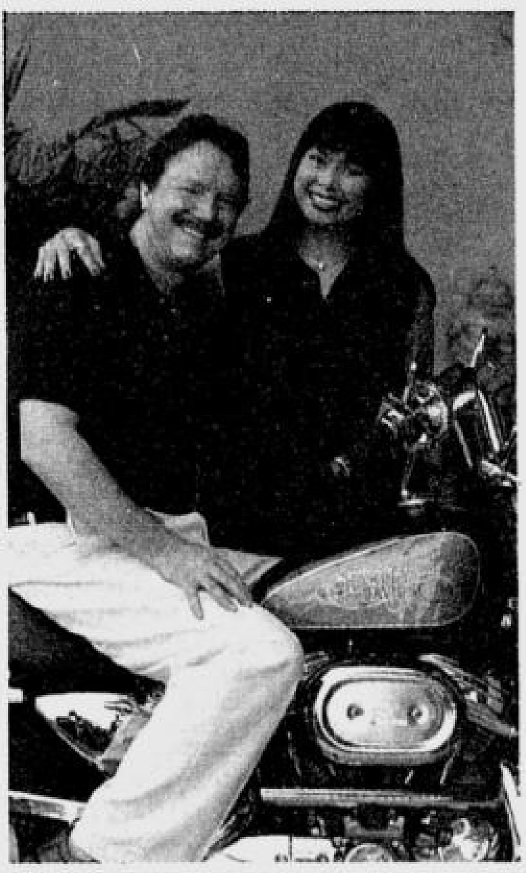
He wrote: "I would like to know whether or not the following price-tagging practice is legal.

"The price tags of a coffee maker and a gas stove were lower by P200 each than the amount written on the purchase receipt issued by store. According to the sales clerk, while warranty on the products guaranteed free repair for the first year, the P200 represented the replacement tax in case the appliances will need parts' replacement on the second year."

Here is the reply of director Ma. Teresa Arao-Mahiwo of the Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection: "Department AO No. 4 specifies that all price tags, labels, markings and price lists must be clear, and shall indicate the price of the consumer product per unit in pesos and centavos. They should indicate prices of goods and service incorporating all price components such as the Value Added Tax.

"Further, the DTI Office of Legal Affairs, in its memorandum of July 28, 1999, opined that the term 'all price components' covers all charges, fees and expenses, which the seller requires the consumers to pay in connection with the sale of consumer product or service…"

E-mail the author at mgiron@csi.com.ph



HAVE FUN, WILL TRAVEL. Paul and Janice Minor with his Harley Davidson 1200 Sportster

Minor classics

(From page D2)

"We have enough trouble going to at least six exhibitions a year," says Paul. "We're good at making them [accent pieces], so I let the others do the marketing for us."

Paul is also into motorcycles. Pictures of him and his dad riding their favorite bikes hang by the den, while Paul's gleaming Harley Davidson 1200 Sporster is displayed proudly in the living room.

"I sometimes get the feeling that he loves his bike more than me," quips a beaming Janice.

The Spanish-Moroccan-inspired home they share on a hill in upscale Maria Luisa has become a veritable showroom of their products. The Alhambra flavor extends to the custom-built wrought-iron grills that make up the main gate and guard the stairs, windows and indoor balconies. Even the bathroom mirrors shaped like the pointed windows of an Arabian home are lined with blue and white tiles.

Yes, like a typical Moorish courtyard, the receiving area comes with a tiled indoor fountain and several small balconies. Huge glass panels allow the morning sun to filter freely in the room. Several double doors taken from an old home in Italy lead to the garden and pool area that offer a sweeping view of Cebu City below.

The couple also succeeds in their attempts to bring the outside in through several quatrefoils inspired by Medieval glass motifs that adorn buildings in Southern Spain. This time, however, each quatrefoil doubles as a mirror and showcase for some of the materials used in their products. Fancy grillwork, for instance, is mounted on the mirror framed by Mactan stone.

Janice also combined the same media to come up with a best-selling piece—a cherub's bust made of pulverized Mactan stone mixed with resin resting on a wrought-iron piece fashioned like a lyre. Stamped steel plates make up the image's feathered wings.

"Angel figures have always been saleable," she shares, "but ours really did very well last year."

The couple also takes pride in reviving a dying industry like hand-blown glass by including the medium in their designs. The company's lampshade collection, for example, combines glass in various shades with wrought-iron stands and vibrant silk shades.

"We found the last remaining batch of handblown glassmakers in the province making drinking glasses five years ago," says Paul. "Many have again taken up the dying art to help us execute our designs."

Distressed wrought iron has also found its way in fruit trays, candelabras and legs of equally faux antique furniture pieces such as console tables and garden sets. A lampshade adorned with a miniature spiral staircase also made of wrought iron makes for an interesting conversation piece. The firm also sells oversized frames made of steel plate, lined and coated to keep them from rusting.

"We go to great lengths to have some of our pieces rust-proofed before we make them look old," says an amused Paul. "Isn't that strange?"

Not really. At the Minor house, anything new is old again.

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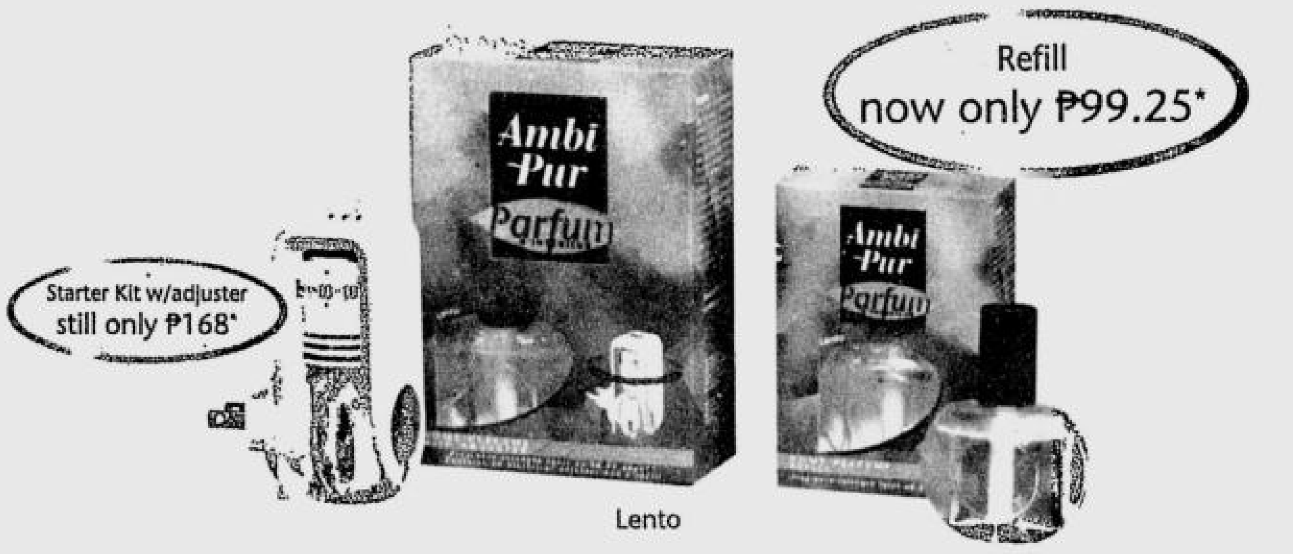

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How to design your kitchen with feng shui

FROM AN ESOTERIC, arcane discipline, feng shui or the ancient Chinese practice of achieving balance and harmony has transformed into a mainstream pseudo-science that is gaining wider acceptance.

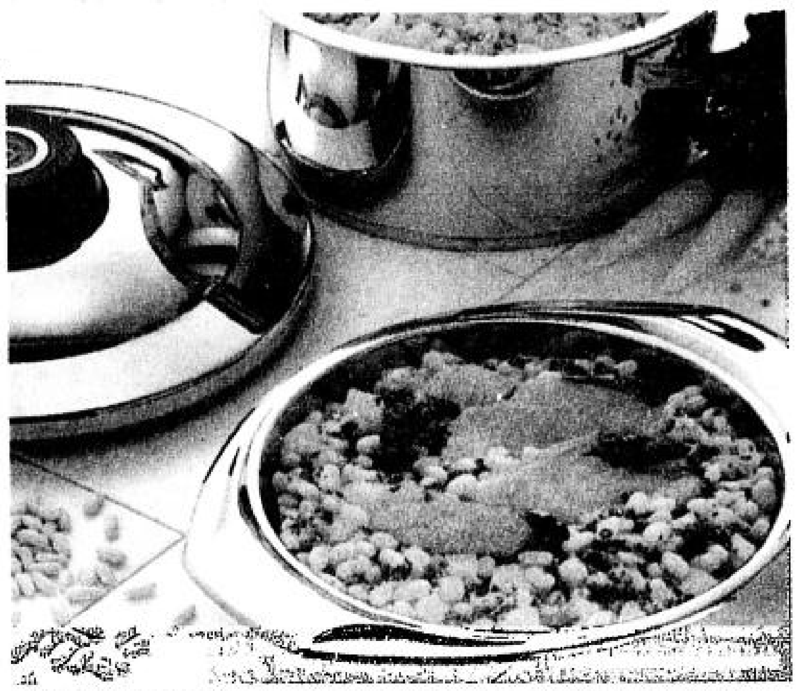
Feng shui rests on the predicate that the arrangement of a home, especially in key areas like the bedroom, office and kitchen, can affect peace of mind, physical health and even career development. Staunch advocates of feng shui believe that it can enhance prosperity and minimize the obstacles or misfortunes in life.

This year, as we celebrate the Year of the Snake, it is time to restore a balanced flow of energy called *ch'i* in our lives and environment. Even small changes in the layout of a room are believed to facilitate the smooth flow of *ch'i*, thereby producing dramatic results.

AMC (Alfa Metalcraft Corporation), a German company that has been manufacturing and distributing stainless steel cookware products since 1963, believes that the kitchen is the center of our homes. Given the Filipino's inherent love for food, it makes sense to examine how applying the rules of feng shui to our kitchen can help improve our lives.

AMC, an affiliate of Waters Philippines, the distributor of Waters bio mineral pot, shares these simple tips on how to design your kitchen with feng shui.

- Clear the clutter inside your kitchen. The simple act of clearing clutter can transform your life by releasing negative emotions. Clutter is trapped energy that makes you feel unorganized, confused, tired and tense. Perhaps it's the litter on top of the microwave oven or beside the dishwasher. Whatever it is, clear your kitchen of clutter to lighten it up.
- Replace broken glass panes and clean the windows. Chinese culture teaches that broken windows create conflicts with a child or the inner child. Plumbing represents our digestive system so repair leaky faucets and clogged drains. The electrical wiring in a house is our neurological system so tend to your electrical needs.
- Avoid placing the kitchen entrance directly opposite the front door. This will ensure protection from incoming negative energy.
- Make sure the entrance to the kitchen does not open up to the living room or bedroom to prevent grease and heat from penetrating the rest of your home.
- Position the stove so that the kitchen door is not directly behind you. It is important to feel safe and calm while cooking. A door directly at your back exposes your tortoise side and causes tension. Also, protect the backside—the tortoise side—of the stove as well, by placing it against a wall instead of a window.
- Have a hood or fan over the stove, but try to avoid using gray-colored materials. Gray colors are cold and represent the energy of metal. A harmonious kitchen has the earth and wood energy qualities.
- Keep knives, or at least the blades, hidden or stored.
- Feng shui favors the color white because it communicates cleanliness and purity. White sets the stage for all the beauty and color of food. Use bright, warm colors such as white, apple green or yellow to lift your spirits in the kitchen.



FENG Shui favors the color white because it communicates cleanliness and purity. White sets the stage for all the beauty and color of food.

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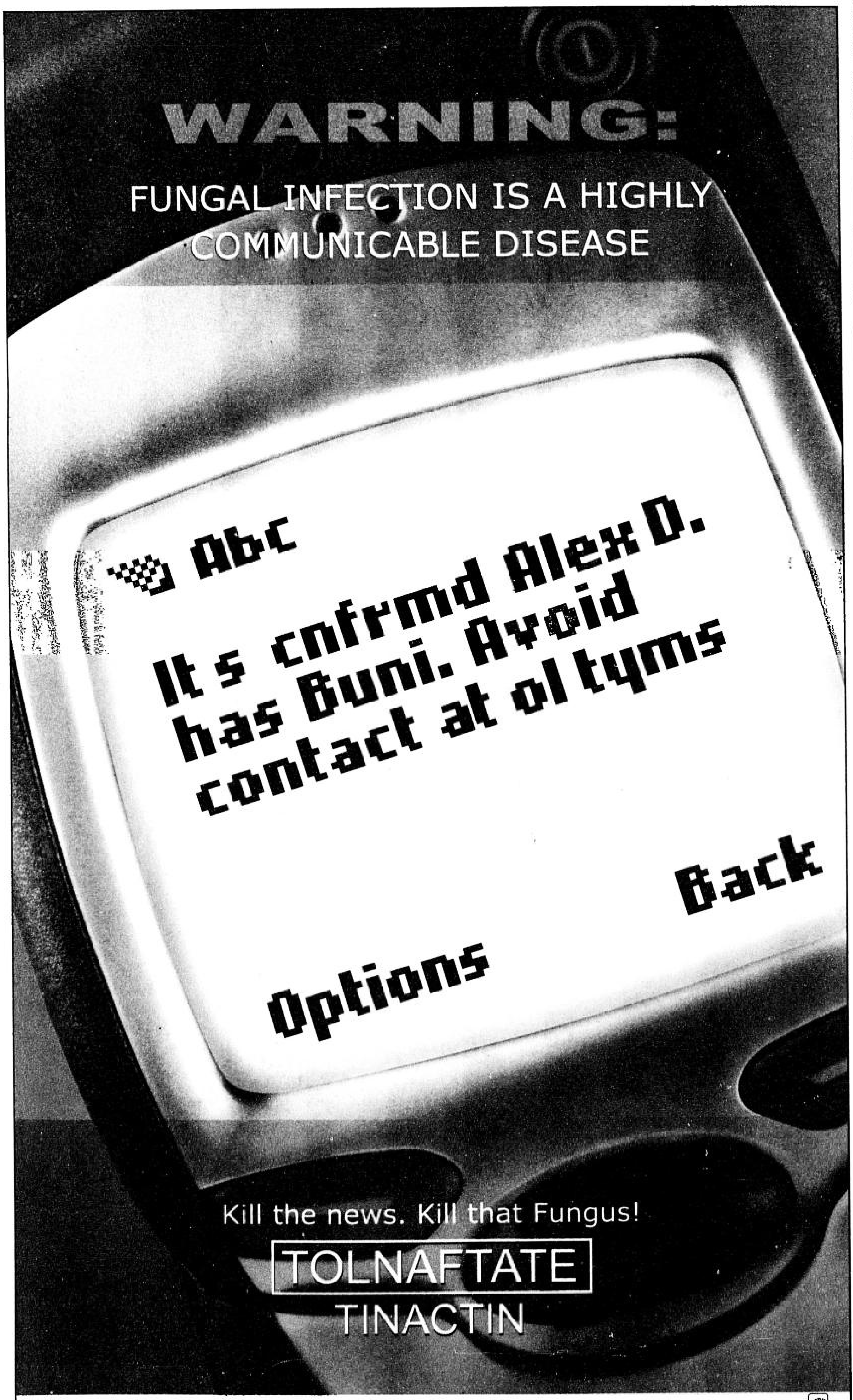
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LIFESTYLE

Trend Spotting

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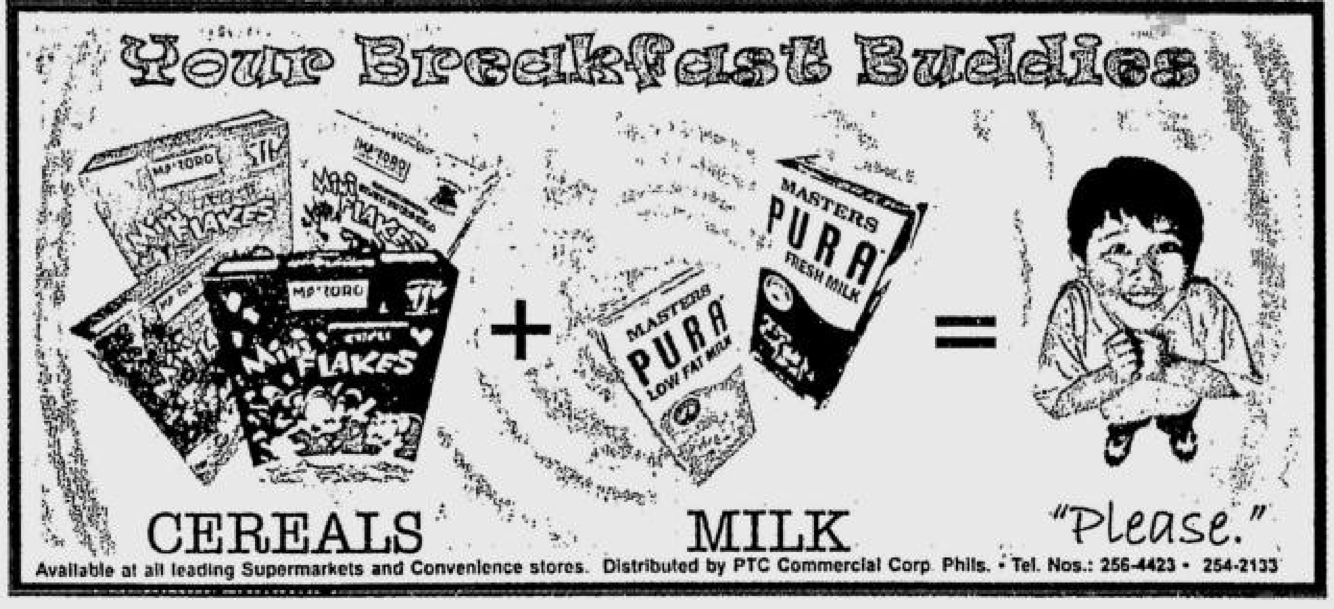
Enter the gray dragon

(Story on page E3)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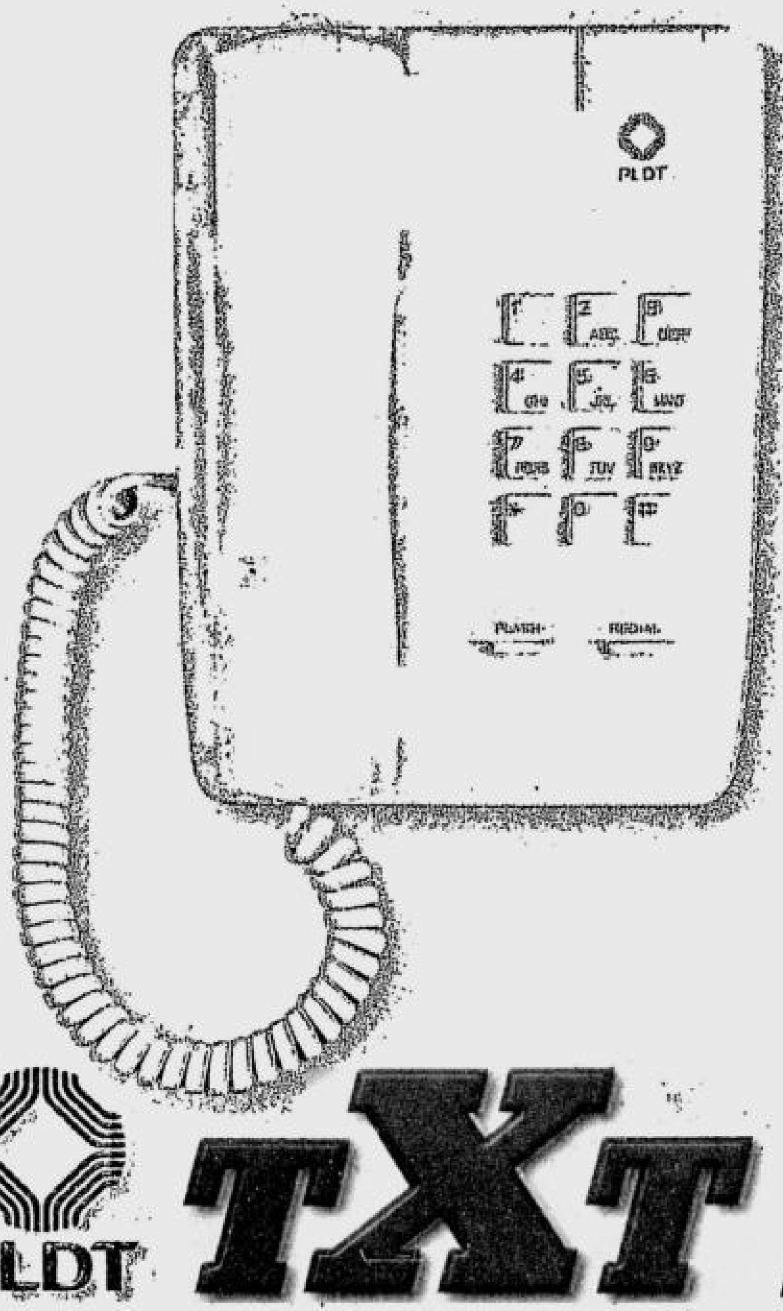
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❹ To create your own message: Compose your message much like texting from a cellphone.
❺ Or choose from a list of ready messages:
  - Press 1 for *"Call home"*
  - Press 2 for *"Call me at the office"*
  - Press 3 for *"Have a good day"*
  - Press 4 for *"I love you"*
  - Press 5 for *"Happy Birthday"*
❻ Then send message. Message sent will be confirmed.

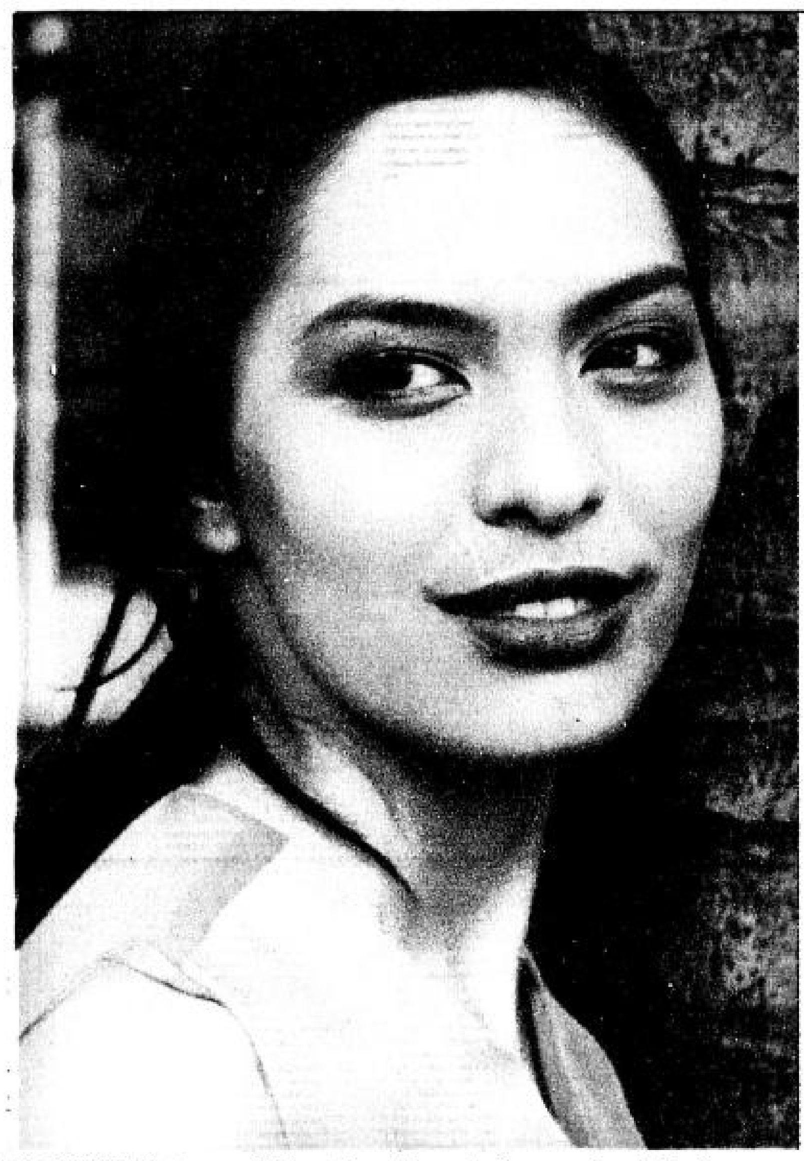
CALL 171 FOR FREE ACTIVATION NOW!

PLDT TXT 135

If you can't say it, txt it.

PLDT

www.pldt.com.ph



PASSION. Makeup artist Leo Posadas pairs the passionate lips in rose with smokey eyes on the model.

Look hot, be soft

PHOTOS BY WAHOO GUERRERO

WHAT'S the look for summer? L'Oreal offers the sheer look with pastels or the classic dark eyes and powerful lips.

If you want your makeup soft, go for the Innocence collection. "The shades are softer, more romantic and feminine. Delicate hues create a halo of color, calling attention to a woman's features, not her makeup," says Collier Strong, consulting makeup artist for L'Oreal.

The collection is a bouquet of barely-there nudes, pink blushes and lip colors.

The new Pinch of Color for Lips and Cheeks is a sheer stain that imparts a rosy or a bronzy glow to skin. New Feel Naturale Blush Duos in Full Bloom and Sweet Cheeks create a subtle sculpted look with color and highlighter.

Subtle but never neutral, the eyes complete the look of innocence. Enhance their natural allure with creamy shadow shades like Rose Whisper, Blushing Blossom, Soft Moss and Hushed Pink from the Colour Fresco collection.

Don't forget your nails. L'Oreal transforms the classic French Manicure with the new Jet-Set French Manicure in sheer and nude shades.

Even if it's pink and beige, women won't give up red and brown

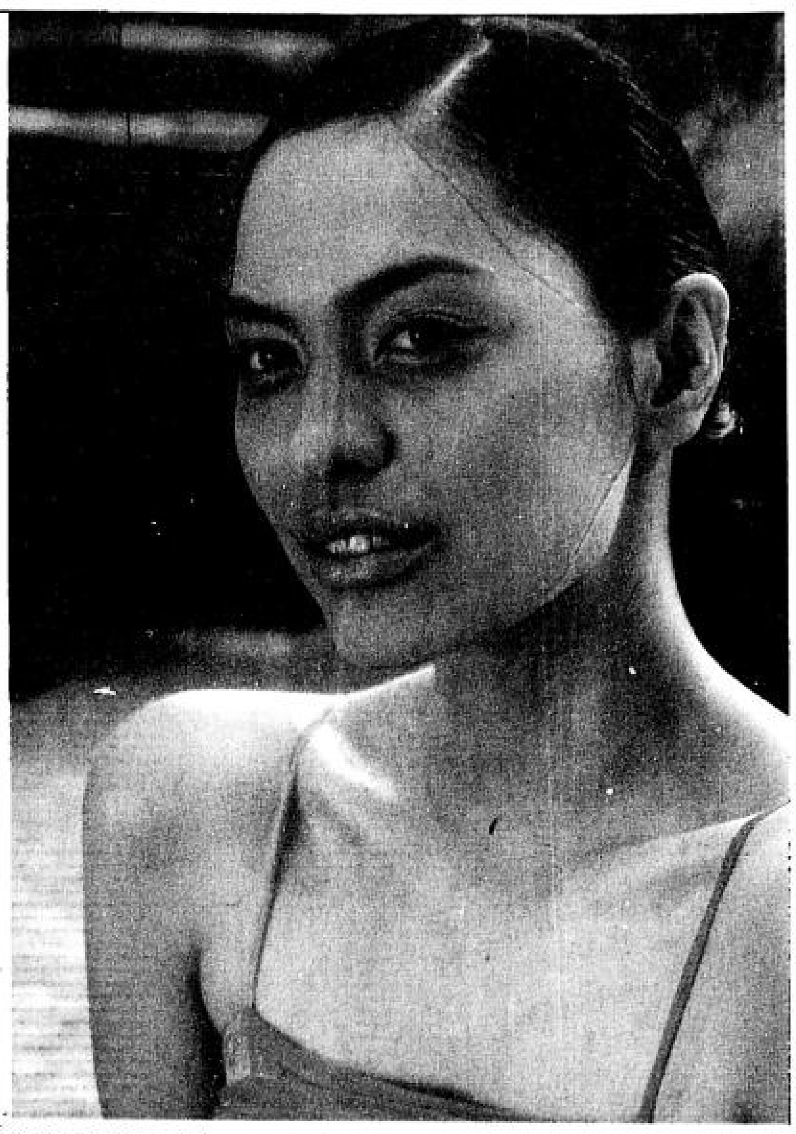
While the 1990s were marked by a love of play-it-safe neutrals, the new decade ushers in an embrace of color and experimentation.

The Passion color collection captures the moment with succulent berry tones on lips and nails and rich penetrating hues for the eyes.

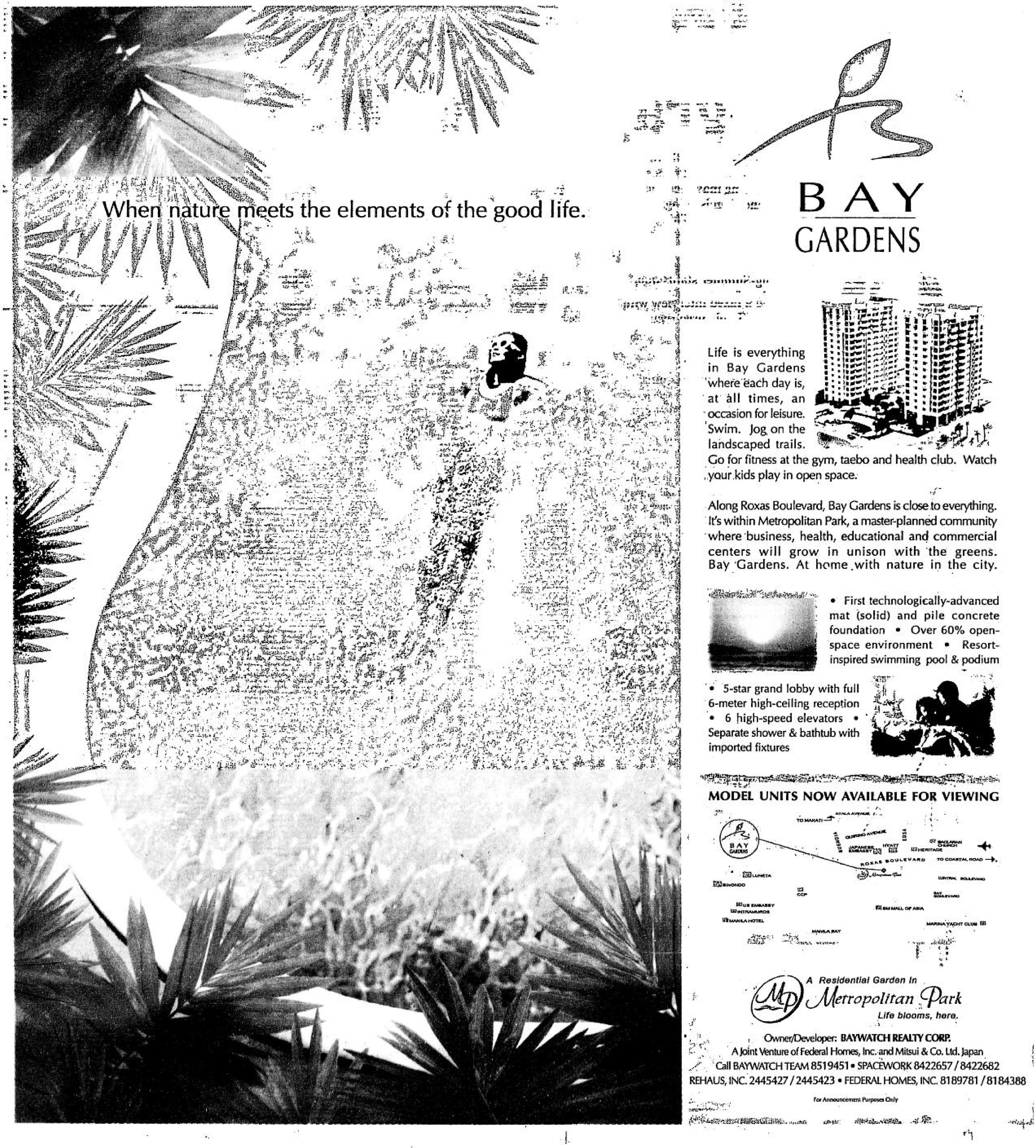
The lips come in lush shades of raspberry and rose. Pair passionate lips with dazzling eyes. A quad is composed of pink, peach, berry and gold for your choice. The combination fits all skin tones. Add depth to the eye with gold or ebony.

L'Oreal captures this spirit with Wear Infinite Long-Wearing Silky Powder Shadow, a new collection of cutting-edge eye color. Most of the colors are in the violet and brown shades.

Wear Infinite provides the ideal combination of benefits: a crease-proof, fade-resistant formula with a smooth, powdery finish that lasts all day long. Its Vitamin E formula and finely milled pigments ensures quick and easy application for monochromatic looks or sophisticated color combinations.



INNOCENCE. Soft green is the favorite shade for this summer. Brows are neat but not overly done. The lips are moist but not glossy. The flushed cheeks are the focal point of the look.



When nature meets the elements of the good life.

BAY GARDENS

Life is everything in Bay Gardens where each day is, at all times, an occasion for leisure. Swim. Jog on the landscaped trails. Go for fitness at the gym, taebo and health club. Watch your kids play in open space.

Along Roxas Boulevard, Bay Gardens is close to everything. It's within Metropolitan Park, a master-planned community where business, health, educational and commercial centers will grow in unison with the greens. Bay Gardens. At home with nature in the city.

- First technologically-advanced mat (solid) and pile concrete foundation
- Over 60% open-space environment
- Resort-inspired swimming pool & podium
- 5-star grand lobby with full 6-meter high-ceiling reception
- 6 high-speed elevators
- Separate shower & bathtub with imported fixtures

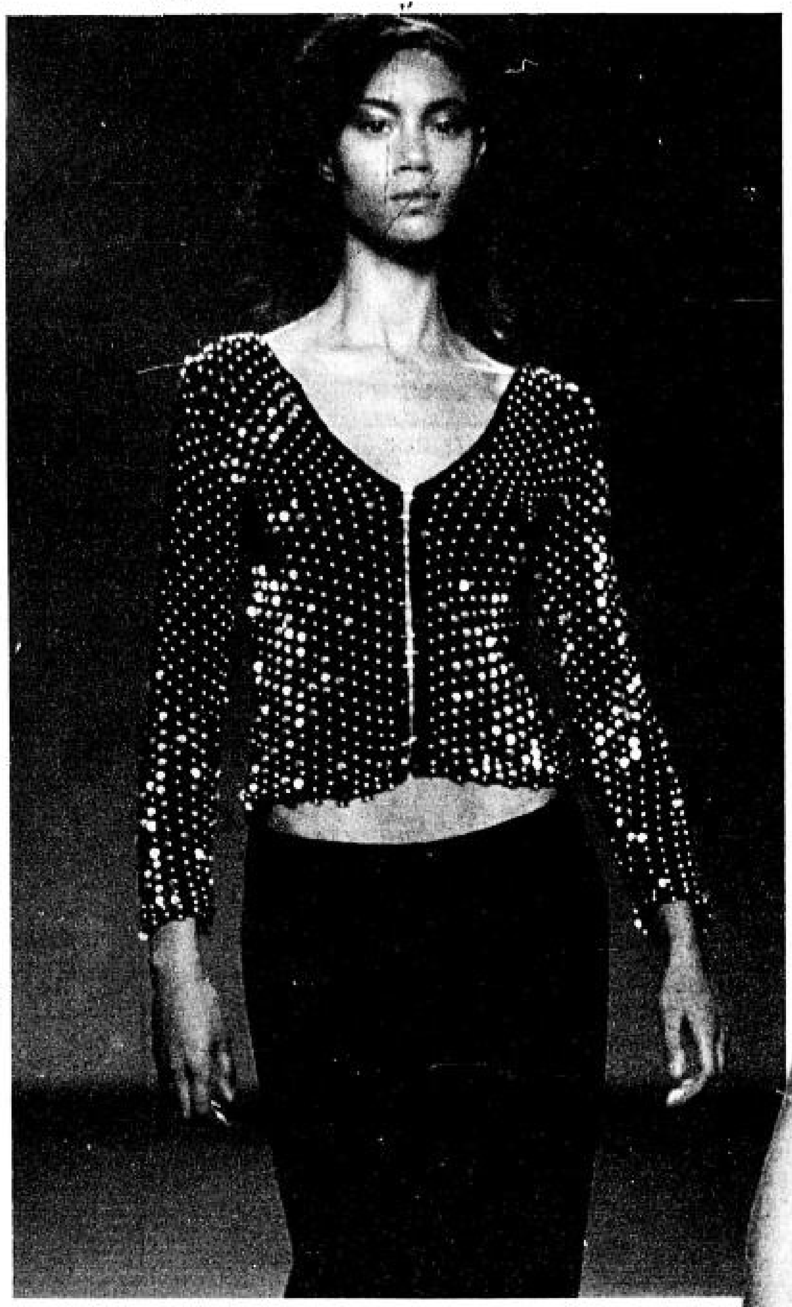
MODEL UNITS NOW AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING

A Residential Garden in Metropolitan Park
Life blooms, here.

Owner/Developer: BAYWATCH REALTY CORP.
A Joint Venture of Federal Homes, Inc. and Mitsui & Co. Ltd. Japan
Call BAYWATCH TEAM 8519451 • SPACEWORK 8422657 / 8422682
REHAUS, INC. 2445427 / 2445423 • FEDERAL HOMES, INC. 8189781 / 8184388

For Announcement Purposes Only

Vivienne Tam introduces dark and gray colors in her Spring-Summer collection to emphasize strength and power, the dragon year's foremost qualities



THE BEADWORK and the top is inspired by India.

VIVIENNE TAM'S CLOTHES ARE AVAILABLE AT MIX, GREENBELT MALL, MAKATI CITY

A REFERENCE to the Year of the Snake

RIVETS as references to the punk look

Enter the gray dragon

SHE is not exactly the fashion world's most daring maverick, but Vivienne Tam is going against the trend. This Spring, she's introducing dark colors such as black and gray. "I hope I do not violate the Spring-Summer status quo," she says in a faxed interview with INQUIRER. "I only used them perhaps to put an emphasis on strength and being solid that makes a contrast when combined with other pieces like silhouette and sequins."

The emphasis on strength is expected since the Chinese-American designer is true to her Oriental roots. The symbol of the new lunar year is the dragon—"the symbol of the highest power in ancient China," Tam says. In her new designs, in fact, there are Buddha prints. "I find it really interesting to put pictures of solid forms like the Buddha, temples and ancient Chinese bridges on very light fabrics."

But Tam's favorite fabrics are strong and solid: pony skin, fake fur and brocade. "Of course, it changes from time to time," she says. "Synthesis of fabrics has become larger and I look after every transition."

She is not averse to introducing Oriental features in her collection other than the Chinese. "Beads, which are an inspiration from India, are mostly present in my designs. I've loved them."

But even the beading has references to China, particularly in the patterns. This is not to indicate perennial design enslavement to Chinese motifs because Tam always provides a new spin to traditional designs. Even the predictable Japanese or Chinese pleat is given a new take. "They have to look nontraditional to create a certain fusion," she explains.

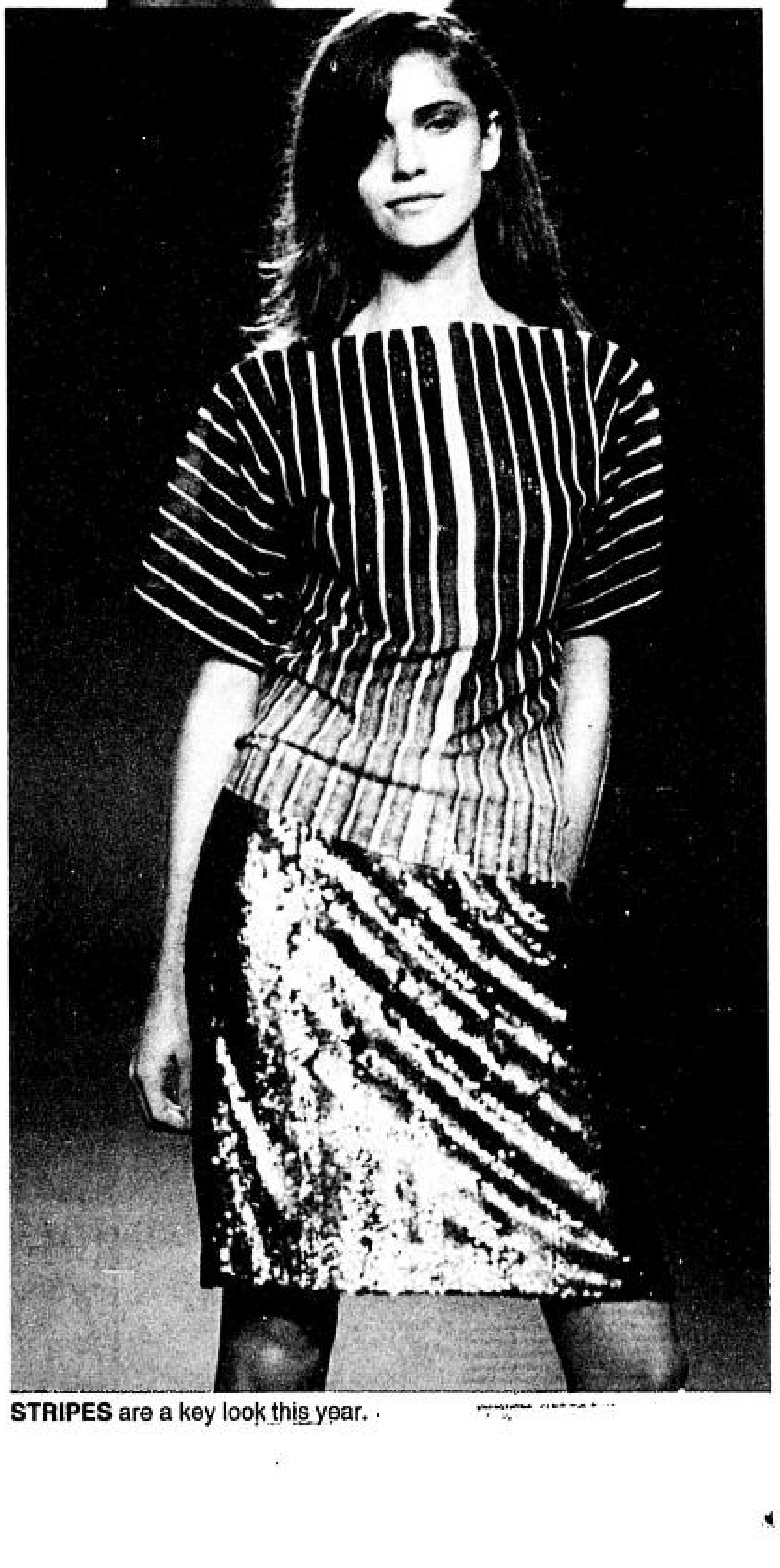
Moreover, she is not averse to incorporating western style trends even if they are fundamentally antifashion. "Punk and the '80s would seem obvious in my collection," she says. "Yes, there is a reference. It is a manifestation that history repeats itself—so does fashion."

Perhaps it is the cross-cultural references that distinguish Tam's works as well as other Asian designers. "My designs represent China and America, they represent me," she says. "I'm able to introduce cross-cultural references to the world in terms of fashion and I can't ask for anything more."

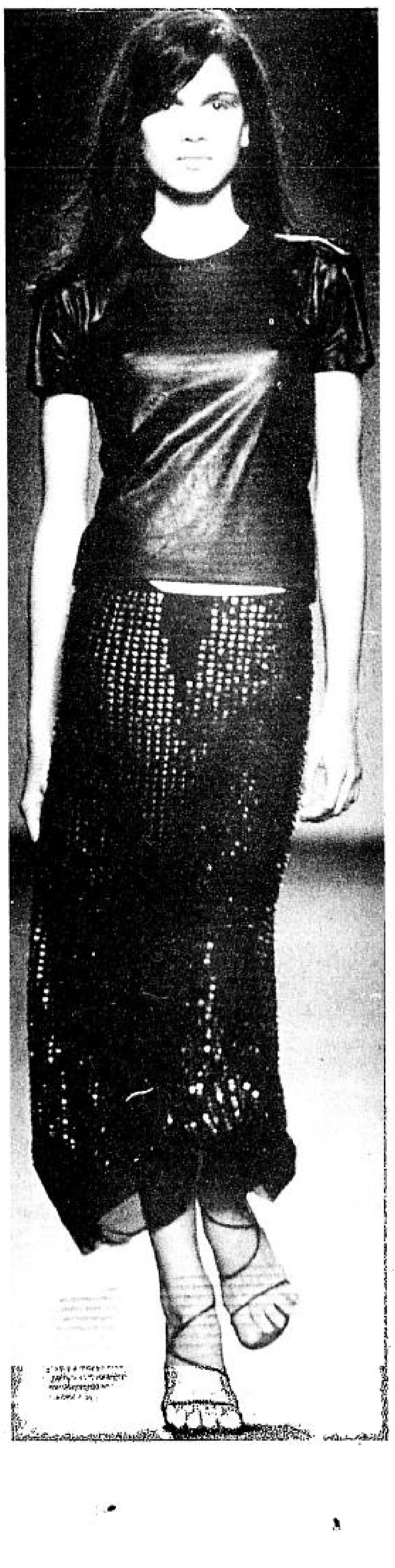
Of course, considering her design verve, she is afraid of drying up. "I'm afraid of loss of idea," she explains. But the dynamics of fashion is such that only an incredibly dense and jaded designer will not be able to come up with bright new ideas.

"Fashion is just a living cycle," Tam says. "Today's fashion is an interesting dialogue between the past and the future, I love the way it goes."

MIXING punk with softness

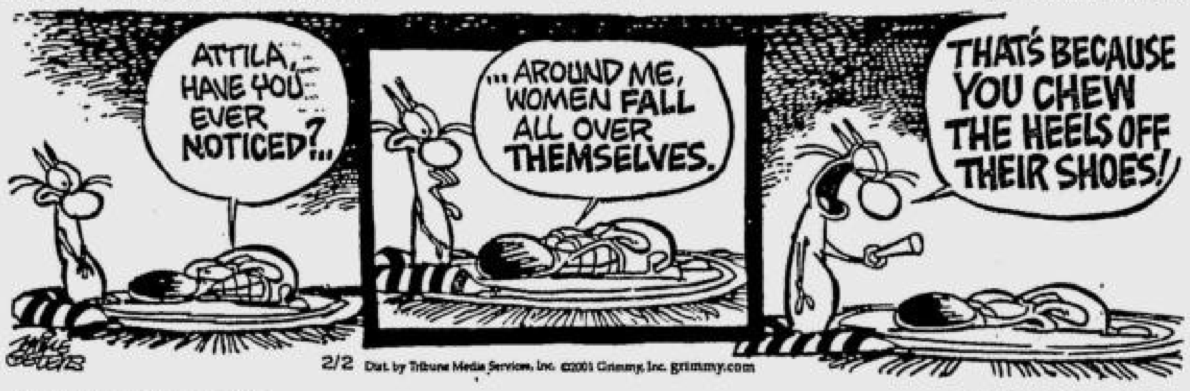


STRIPES are a key look this year.



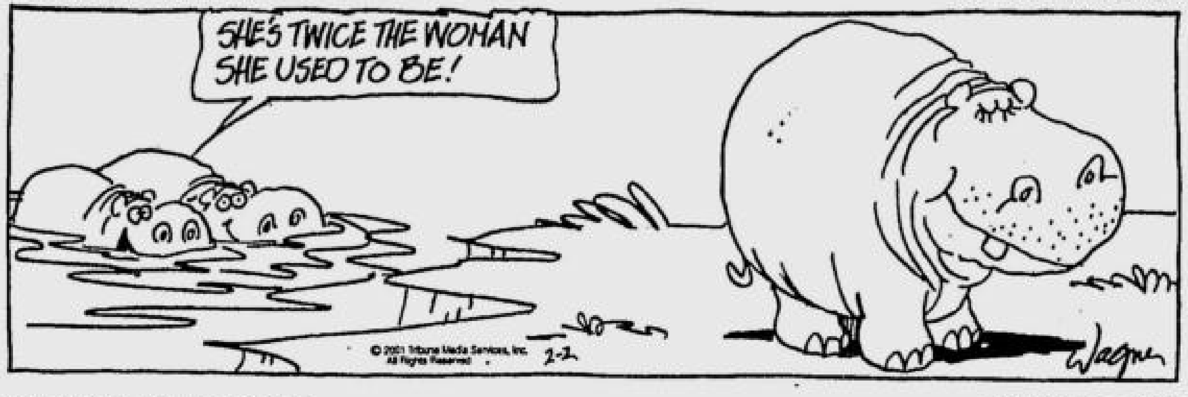
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


ATTILA, HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED?...
...AROUND ME, WOMEN FALL ALL OVER THEMSELVES.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU CHEW THE HEELS OFF THEIR SHOES!
MIKE PETERS
2/2 Dist. by Tribune Media Services, Inc. ©2001 Grimmy, Inc. grimmy.com

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


SHE'S TWICE THE WOMAN SHE USED TO BE!
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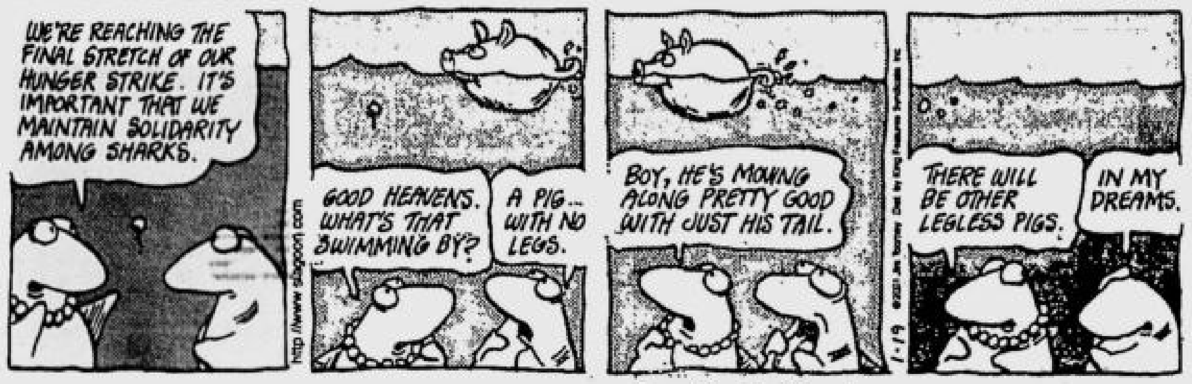
2-2
Wagner

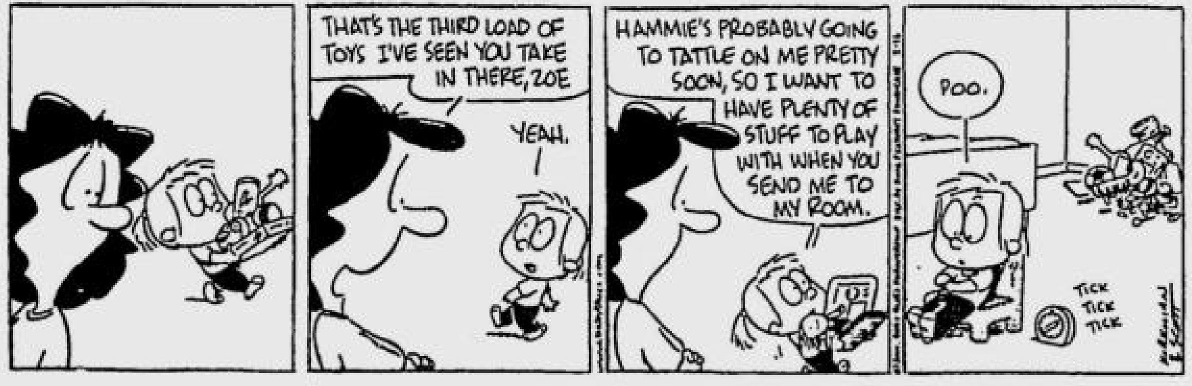
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WE'RE REACHING THE FINAL STRETCH OF OUR HUNGER STRIKE. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE MAINTAIN SOLIDARITY AMONG SHARKS.
http://www.slagoon.com
GOOD HEAVENS. WHAT'S THAT SWIMMING BY?
A PIG... WITH NO LEGS.
BOY, HE'S MOVING ALONG PRETTY GOOD WITH JUST HIS TAIL.
1-19
THERE WILL BE OTHER LEGLESS PIGS.
IN MY DREAMS.

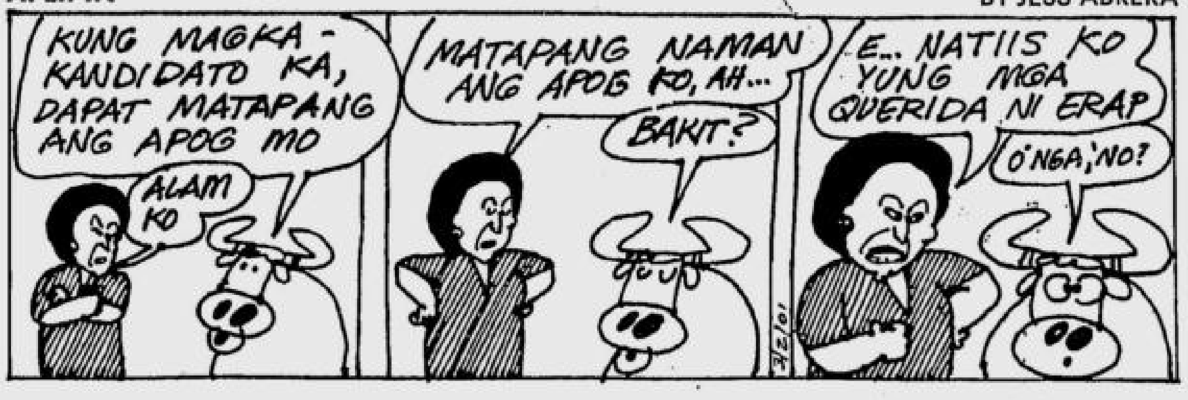
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


THAT'S THE THIRD LOAD OF TOYS I'VE SEEN YOU TAKE IN THERE, ZOE
YEAH.
HAMMIE'S PROBABLY GOING TO TATTLE ON ME PRETTY SOON, SO I WANT TO HAVE PLENTY OF STUFF TO PLAY WITH WHEN YOU SEND ME TO MY ROOM.
POO.
TICK TICK TICK

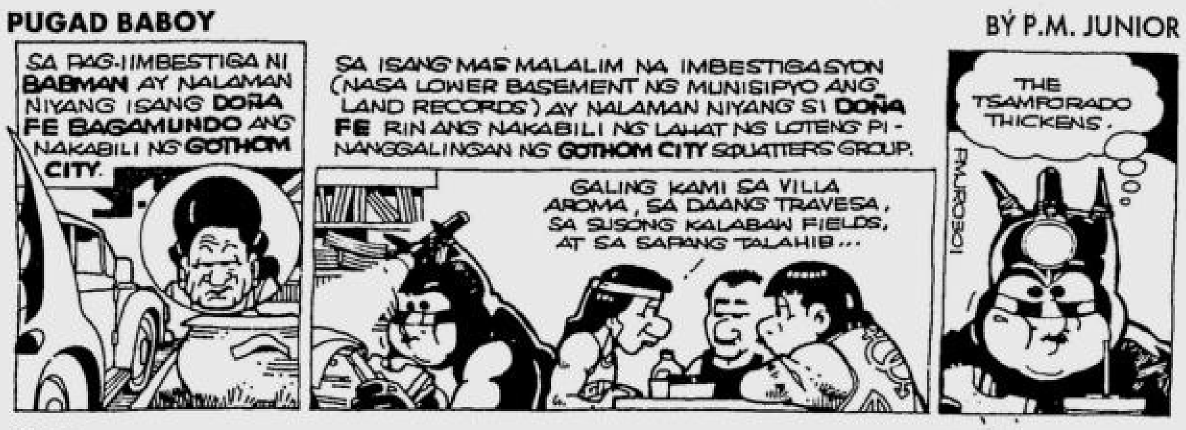
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KUNG MAGKA-KANDIDATO KA, DAPAT MATAPANG ANG APOG MO
ALAM KO
MATAPANG NAMAN ANG APOG KO, AH...
BAKIT?
3/2/01
E... NATIIS KO YUNG MGA QUERIDA NI ERAP
O'NGA, NO?

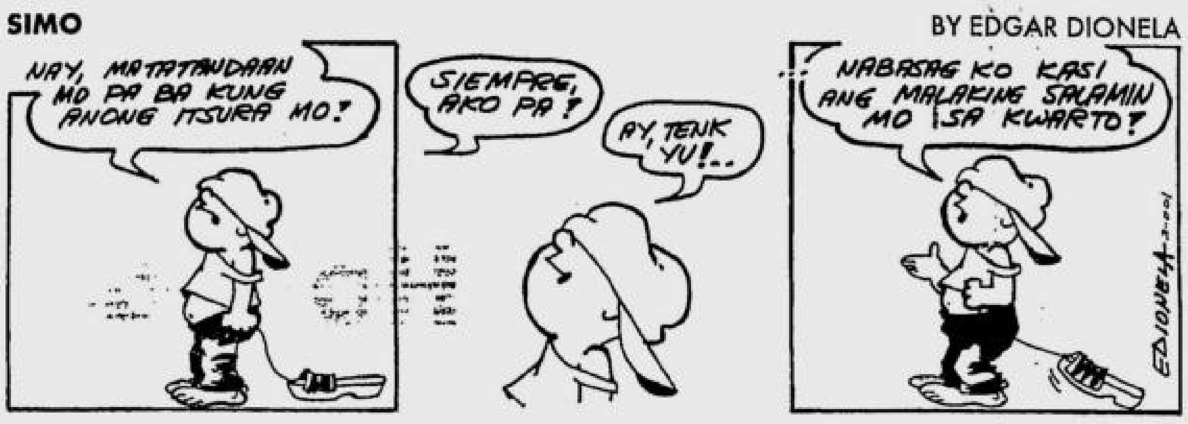
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SA PAG-IIMBESTIGA NI BABMAN AY NALAMAN NIYANG ISANG DOÑA FE BAGAMUNDO ANG NAKABILI NG GOTHOM CITY.
SA ISANG MAS MALALIM NA IMBESTIGASYON (NASA LOWER BASEMENT NG MUNISIPYO ANG LAND RECORDS) AY NALAMAN NIYANG SI DOÑA FE RIN ANG NAKABILI NG LAHAT NG LOTENG PINANGGALINGAN NG GOTHOM CITY SQUATTERS' GROUP.
GALING KAMI SA VILLA AROMA, SA DAANG TRAVESA, SA SUSONG KALABAW FIELDS, AT SA SAPANG TALAHIB...
PMJR0301
THE TSAMPORADO THICKENS.

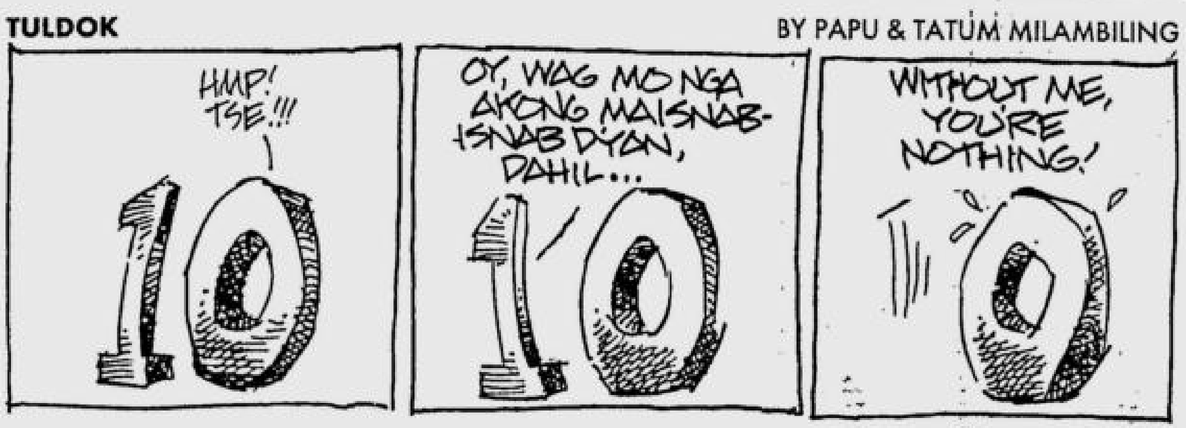
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


NAY, MATATANDAAN MO PA BA KUNG ANONG ITSURA MO?
SIEMPRE, AKO PA!
AY, TENK YU!..
NABASAG KO KASI ANG MALAKING SALAMIN MO SA KWARTO!
EDIONELA 3-2-01

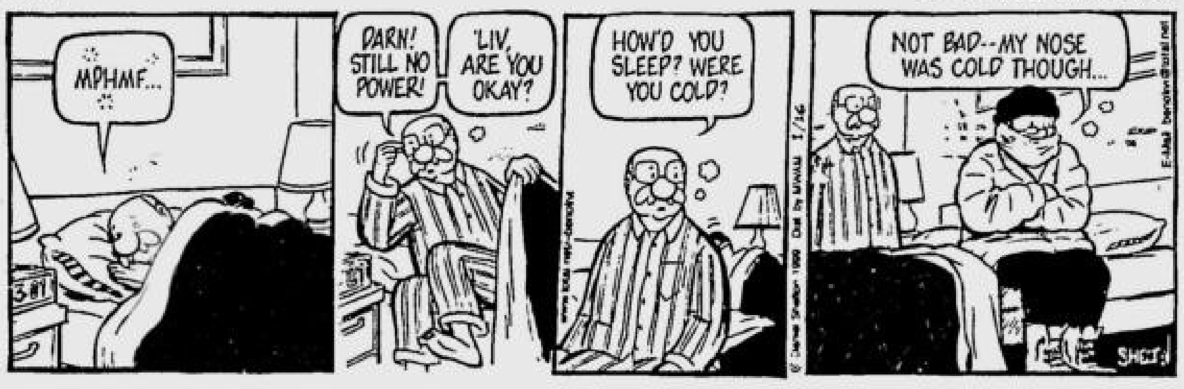
TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


HMP! TSE!!!
OY, WAG MO NGA AKONG MAISNAB-ISNAB D'YAN, DAHIL...
WITHOUT ME, YOU'RE NOTHING!

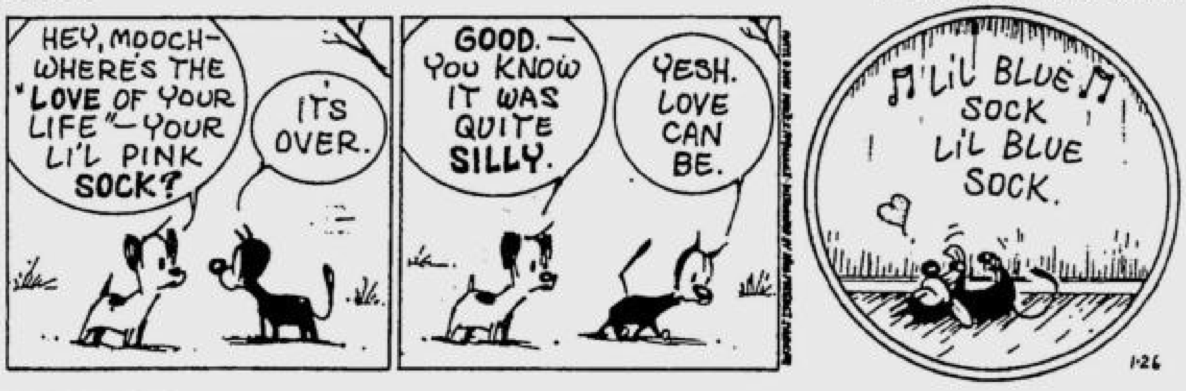
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


MPHMF...
DARN! STILL NO POWER!
'LIV, ARE YOU OKAY?
HOW'D YOU SLEEP? WERE YOU COLD?
NOT BAD--MY NOSE WAS COLD THOUGH...
1/16

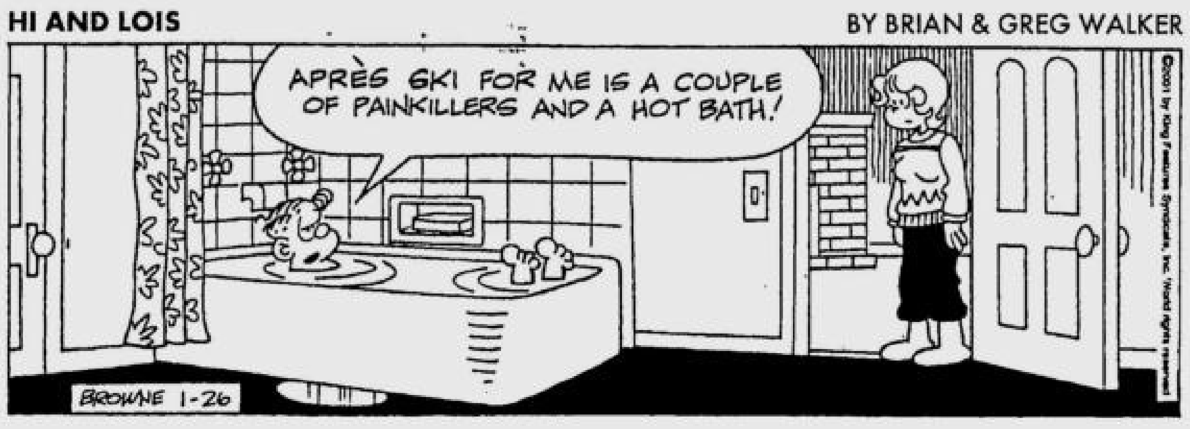
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HEY, MOOCH– WHERE'S THE "LOVE OF YOUR LIFE"—YOUR LI'L PINK SOCK?
IT'S OVER.
GOOD.— YOU KNOW IT WAS QUITE SILLY.
YESH. LOVE CAN BE.
♫ LI'L BLUE ♫ SOCK LI'L BLUE SOCK.
1-26

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


APRÈS SKI FOR ME IS A COUPLE OF PAINKILLERS AND A HOT BATH!
BROWNE 1-26
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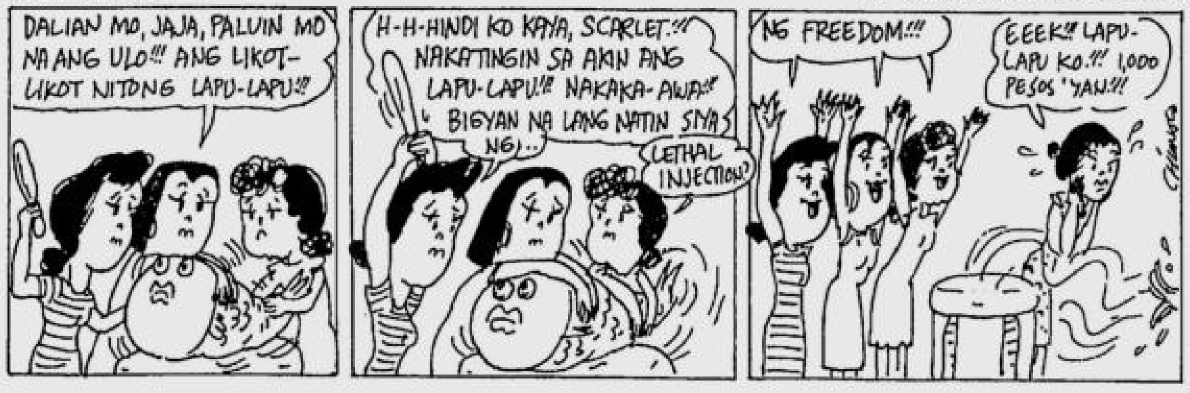
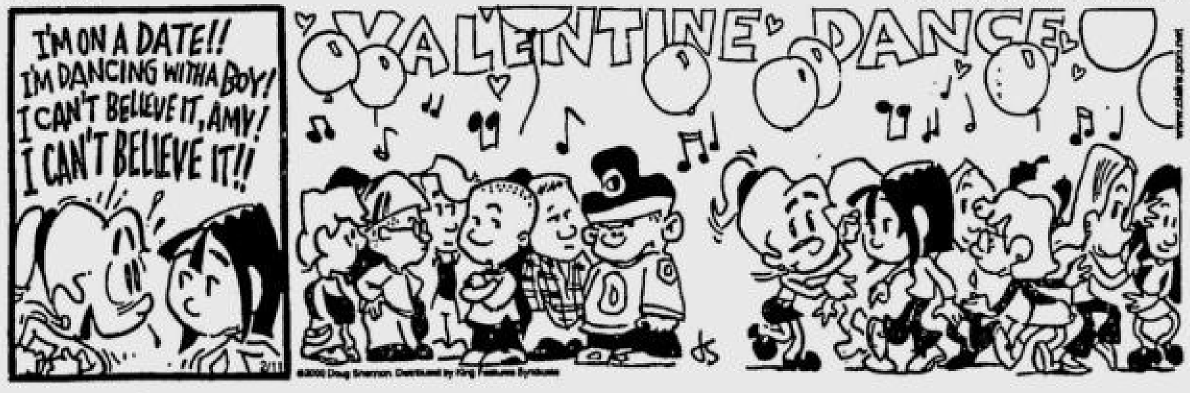
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DALIAN MO, JAJA, PALUIN MO NA ANG ULO!!! ANG LIKOT-LIKOT NITONG LAPU-LAPU!!!
H-H-HINDI KO KAYA, SCARLET!!! NAKATINGIN SA AKIN ANG LAPU-LAPU!!! NAKAKA-AWA!!!
BIGYAN NA LANG NATIN SIYA NG...
LETHAL INJECTION?
NG FREEDOM!!!
EEEK!!! LAPU-LAPU KO!!! 1,000 PESOS 'YAN!!!

CLAIRE

BY DOUG SHANNON


I'M ON A DATE!! I'M DANCING WITH A BOY! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, AMY! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!!
VALENTINE DANCE
DS
©2000 Doug Shannon. Distributed by King Features Syndicate
www.claire-pooh.net

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Desi Arnaz, Dr. Seuss, Jennifer Jones, Jon Bon Jovi, Lou Reed, Mikhail Gorbachev, Al Waxman, Karen Carpenter, Gabriele Tarquini, Tom Wolfe

Happy Birthday: You must control your emotions if you want to take advantage of all the amazing events in your life this year. You will have to choose your direction carefully and concentrate on what needs to be done instead of wasting time. For the time being, let go of all the people and things that are not beneficial. Your numbers: 19, 23, 26, 32, 38, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Travel should be on your agenda. You can obtain a vast amount of knowledge if you keep an open mind and discuss your opinions with established individuals. Sign up for courses that will help you develop new skills.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be careful not to take on too much. You may feel competitive, but tackling unreasonable challenges will restrict you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will want to spend time with your lover and will find it hard to control your emotions. Make plans that will allow you to express your intentions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't push your luck with superiors or authority figures. Secret affairs will eventually backfire on you. You may not get your facts correct today. Double check before you make statements that could ruin your reputation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your charming and outgoing nature will attract members of the opposite sex if you put yourself in a position of leadership at group meetings. Don't be afraid to speak your piece.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Travel will entice you, but curb any tendency to overspend. Deal with children's needs and participate in self-awareness groups.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your lover may be keeping important information from you. Sudden changes regarding your partnership are likely. Get ready to put time and effort into pampering yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Legal matters may be pressing. Take care of your personal affairs yourself. If you take the time to help someone less fortunate than yourself, you will receive rewards.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will be somewhat confused about your personal relationship. Don't try to make decisions or changes without running your ideas past your mate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Career limitations may set you back. Losses are evident if you become involved in joint financial ventures. Some people you work with may try to dump their responsibilities on you.

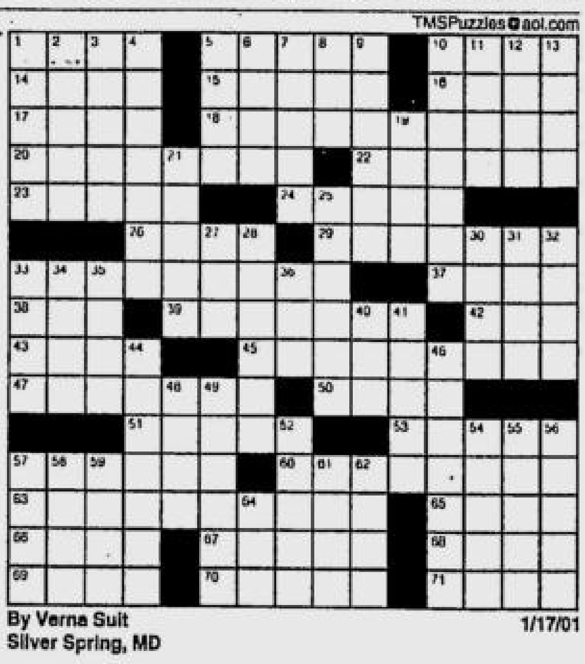
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You need to be entertained, so get out with friends. Look into ways to pamper yourself for a new attitude and a new you. It's your turn to be a little selfish.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Changes in your home will be unnerving. If you try to be accepting, you will discover that the situation is not as bad as you had first thought. Learn to go with the flow for best results.

Birthday Baby: Fidgety, excitable and full of pizzazz, you will always amaze and entertain the people around you. You are knowledgeable and eager to please. You have a strong sense of what you want and will settle for nothing less.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com


1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71

By Verna Suit
Silver Spring, MD

1/17/01

ACROSS

1 Walton and Waterston
5 Uncovers
10 Fabled loser
14 Stumble
15 Embarrass
16 Leafstalk angle
17 City on the Truckee
18 45A's horse
20 Deluge
22 Something to cut
23 Stale
24 Golfer's gouge
26 Elliptical
29 Goddess of divine retribution
33 King of the Cowboys
37 Speed event
38 So that's it!
39 The Big Apple
42 "I've __ a Secret"
43 Dossier
45 Queen of the West
47 Polish site?
50 Rapier's cousin
51 Swings to and fro
53 Stage
57 Declare
60 Grail seeker
63 Pat Brady's jeep
65 Dove home
66 Corner aloft
67 Like college walls
68 Tender cut
69 Tips
70 Actress Phoebe
71 Sicilian volcano

DOWN

1 Long narrow region
2 Sports venue
3 Less
4 Promoter
5 __ au rhum (leavened cake with raisins)
6 Border on
7 Graded
8 Superlative ending
9 Put on the backburner
10 Pet rodent
11 Rotation line
12 Vex
13 Part of B.P.O.E.
19 Space
21 County of SW England
25 Strip in a shoe
27 Historic period
28 In a vulgar way
30 Tale
31 Laptop image
32 Hardens
33 Diving platform
34 Indiana neighbor
35 New Haven school
36 Scandinavian rug
40 Corded fabric
41 Holds on to
44 Stores as fodder
46 Conveyance
48 Skewed
49 Like Shakespeare's feet
52 Gymnast's feat
54 Underway
55 Smooth glossy fabric
56 Actress Verdugo
57 Poker fee
58 Simple plant
59 Escaped
61 Toward the sheltered side
62 Warren Beatty film
64 One of the Gabors

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

I	V	A	N	■	M	E	A	D	■	U	M	B	E	R
N	I	N	E	■	E	N	V	Y	■	N	O	R	M	A
C	O	T	T	O	N	G	I	N	■	T	R	A	I	T
A	L	E	■	S	A	L	S	A	■	R	A	N	T	S
■	■	■	R	A	C	E	■	M	O	U	N	D	■	■
V	I	S	A	G	E	■	D	I	N	T	■	Y	E	W
I	N	A	N	E	■	A	I	T	C	H	■	W	A	R
T	U	C	K	■	S	C	R	E	E	■	C	I	T	E
A	R	K	■	B	A	C	K	S	■	P	A	N	E	S
L	E	O	■	A	I	L	S	■	R	E	P	E	N	T
■	■	F	E	L	L	A	■	B	E	T	E	■	■	■
S	O	R	E	L	■	I	R	A	T	E	■	G	M	T
A	D	O	R	E	■	M	E	Y	E	R	B	E	E	R
L	I	M	I	T	■	E	N	O	S	■	U	N	T	O
K	N	E	E	S	■	R	O	U	T	■	N	E	E	D

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1/17/01

Sew and be your own YSL

BY MA. MERCEDES REYES

'Classic Clothes' can help you sew your way to elegance

REVIEW

FASHION is fickle, but there are a few basic items that communicate style and elegance regardless of this season's trends. Unfortunately, these classic looks are often the most expensive to achieve. A good tailored suit can cost anything from P2,000-10,000—assuming you can find something that fits you perfectly.

But if you know how to sew, "Classic Clothes: A Practical Guide to Dressmaking" by Rene Bergh allows you to create a simple and elegant look using your skill and a bit of your time. It already assumes you understand sewing terms and can work the sewing machine without any difficulty, so don't expect any explanations of basic dressmaking concepts. Instead, Bergh explains what the classic look is and how to achieve it.

She begins with a little background on the elements of classic design: color, cloth and cut. This provides valuable pointers for choosing the materials for your clothes. The second chapter, Wardrobe Planning, describes the most basic items you'll need in your wardrobe. Bergh includes casual and formal clothes, as well as the traditional and the modern classics.

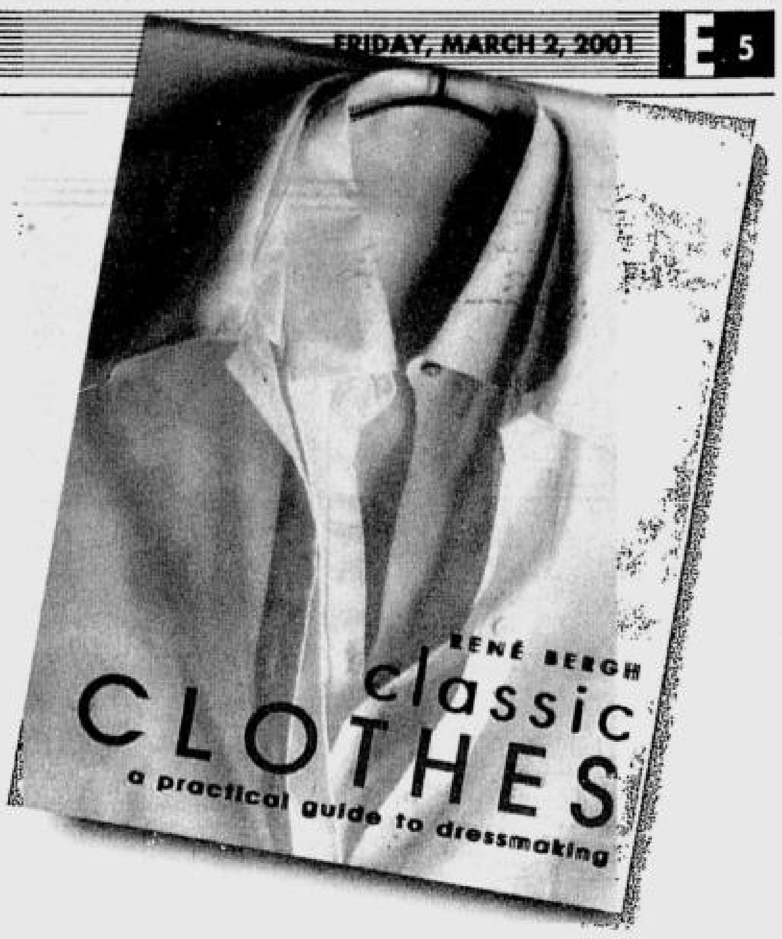
Part of the classic look is a tailored fit. Bergh devotes an entire chapter on identifying your body's strengths and weaknesses, and the styles you should use and avoid. She presents a very useful table of where the darts, cuts, nips and tucks should be made to emphasize a curve, hide a bulge, or create the illusion of height.

The meat of the book—how to sew the classic clothes—is clearly explained through step-by-step instructions and illustrations. No patterns are included, but Bergh does give tips on how to adjust patterns and take accurate measurements. Some of the items require special machines (like jeans) or advanced skills (like suits), but someone of average skill can complete more or less the projects in a reasonable amount of time.

And as an added touch, Bergh includes a short section on how to mix and match what you've made to achieve different looks by changing the color, line or texture: corporate casual, corporate chic, cocktail, casual, smart, modern traditional. She also suggests classic accessories (sorry, you'll have to buy these—unless you make shoes and jewelry, too).

"Classic Clothes" is a useful companion to an elegant and flexible wardrobe—if you're lucky enough to know how to sew. For those who don't, maybe this book might be just the right push to inspire us to learn—or convince our neighborhood *modista* to buy it.

Available at National Bookstore



SHORT jacket and cropped, easy-fitting pants

Simplicity is femininity

BETTY Barclay collection focuses on femininity. The individual outfits match in color and design and can therefore be easily coordinated but, above all, they are comfortable to wear.

Color is featured prominently, ranging from lilac to turquoise or in earthy tones in harmonious degrade for styles with a fashionable ethnic touch.

The emphasis is on the decorative aspects of the styles such as applications, rhinestones, rivets, embroideries and ornaments. Prints are another important fashion theme. There are floral motives and check patterns, and spots in all sizes (from tiny ones to polka dots) are very fashionable.

The silhouettes for the new Betty Barclay Fashion are figure hugging. Fabrics range from polyester and cotton through to silk blends, with transparency and the lightweight aspects being the most important ones.

With the revival of femininity the blouse regains importance, coming with ruches, flounces and trumpet arms.

Fab footwear

LINEA Italia makes sure you have the right shoes to match whatever look and mood you want with its 2001 collection.

The color spectrum ranges from black, brown, purple, blue and maroon to bright and sunny shades of pink, beige, green, lavender and white. From high-heeled pumps and strappy stilettos to flat moccasins and sandals that spell flower power, a beadfest or glamorama—there's a shoe fit for you.

There are a lot of choices for men, too. Check out leather sandals, casual and dress shoes, and low-cut boots.

The collection includes the latest from Navalos, Emmegi, Exit, Fendissime, Strada Firenze, Meldodia, Shoemaker, Tonelli Young, and many more.

The best thing about the shoe collection is that they're 100-percent Italian-made and they're available at the best prices in Asia!

The 2001 shoe collection is available at the following Linea Italia shops: Linea Italia 6750, Linea Italia (Megamall and Cebu), Capolinea (Greenbelt), Uomo Tu (Greenbelt), Linea Uomo (Megamall) and Corso Marconi Festival Supermall (Alabang).

Beauty queen mode

GRACIE Hart, Sandra Bullock's character in "Miss Congeniality," barely has 24 hours to transform herself into a tomboyish FBI agent to a glamorous beauty contest candidate. To help her metamorphose into a stunning lady, costume designer Susie de Santo chose a gown designed by Angel Sanchez, a designer from Brazil.

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